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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
Vol. 53 • No. 175
14 pages • ₹6.00

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Bidding for spectrum, including 5G airwaves, to begin this week
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Max Verstappen claims French GP for seventh win of the season
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NEARBY

Two city policemen die in accident in Chittoor

BENGALURU

Two policemen attached to the Shivajinagar police station here were among three killed in a road accident at Pootalapattu town in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh early on Sunday.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 3

BBMP's road-digging ban yields little

BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike recently imposed a three-month ban on all road-digging in the city, except ongoing works. However, ever since the ban was imposed two weeks ago, several utilities have sought exemptions and dug up roads.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Power tussle: Cong. in damage-control mode

BENGALURU

The power struggle in the Congress over the post of the Chief Minister has now spilled over to the Vokkaliga turf. While the statement of former Minister and Chamarajpet MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan on Vokkaligas has riled many, Congress seems to be in damage-control mode.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ 4 PAGES

Hurling to glory

Full momentum: Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra competing in the men's javelin throw final during the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, in the U.S. on Saturday. His 88.13m throw won him the silver medal. • AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

Kovind highlights climate crisis

We must take care of our environment for the sake of our children, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind, in his farewell address to the nation on Sunday, urged the youth to be mindful of their roots in villages and towns, and made a strong appeal to countrymen to take care of the environment.

"Mother Nature is in deep agony and the climate crisis can endanger the very future of this planet," Mr. Kovind said.

Ram Nath Kovind

"As the first citizen, if I have to give one advice to my fellow citizens, it is this," he added.

Mr. Kovind, India's 14th President, completes his term on Sunday, and his successor, Droupadi Murmu, will be sworn in on Monday.

In his customary remarks on the eve of demitting office, he said that in his five-year term, he had discharged his responsibilities to the best of his abilities, and he had tried hard to be a worthy successor to great Presidents like Rajendra Prasad, S. Radhakrishnan and A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

"My predecessor, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, also shared his wise counsel with me," Mr. Kovind said.

However, during times when he felt he needed to think over a certain path of action, he would remember Mahatma Gandhi's talisman which enjoined that whenever in doubt over a course of action, one need only to ask whether that action would help the poorest person around.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

High alert as Delhi reports monkeypox

India's fourth case has no history of foreign travel

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Delhi confirmed its first case of monkeypox on Sunday, a day after the infection was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization.

The Health Ministry confirmed that a 34-year-old man from Delhi was isolated at Lok Nayak Hospital with monkeypox symptoms. The National Institute of Virology, Pune confirmed the diagnosis. The patient is recovering at the designated isolation centre in the hospital, it said.

The close contacts of the case have been identified and are under quarantine in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

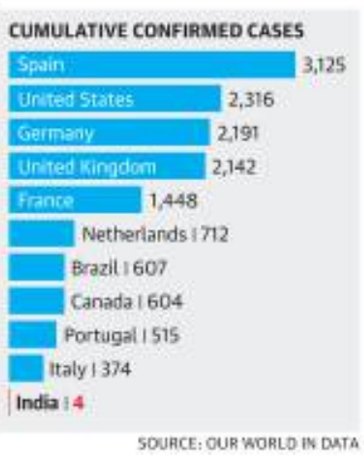
Further public health interventions such as the identification of the source of the infection, enhanced contact tracing, testing, and sensitisation of private practitioners are being carried out.

The patient has no travel history and was admitted some days ago with fever and skin lesions.

A high-level review meeting of the situation was organised by the Director-General of Health Services (DGHS) on Sunday.

Case count

The seven-day average of daily monkeypox cases worldwide crossed the 500-mark last week. Spain has reported the most number of cases with more than 3,000 reported infections. The graph shows infections in select high-burden countries and cases in India



SOURCE: OUR WORLD IN DATA

The WHO called upon countries in Southeast Asia to strengthen surveillance and public health measures for monkeypox.

Detailed study

Following the DGHS meeting, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has been directed to carry out a detailed epidemiological investigation of the positive cases.

Meanwhile, the National AIDS Control Organisation has been instructed to create awareness of preventive measures against the virus.

Health facilities have been told to look for patients with unexplained rashes and a history of travel in the past 21 days to a country that has recently confirmed cases of, or has suspected cases of, monkeypox.

Additionally, the "Guidelines on management of monkeypox disease" issued by the Centre states the transmission of the monkeypox virus happens primarily through large respiratory droplets, generally requiring prolonged close contact.

The incubation period of the virus is usually from six to 13 days and symptoms include lesions, which usually begin to appear within one to three days from the onset of fever, lasting for around two to four weeks, and are often described as painful, until the healing phase, when they become itchy.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

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THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Another monkeypox case

4 The number of monkeypox cases reported in India. A 34-year-old man from New Delhi with no history of foreign travel has tested positive for monkeypox virus, making it the fourth case of the disease being reported in India. Three cases of monkeypox had earlier been reported in Kerala. The World Health Organization has declared monkeypox as a global public health emergency of international concern. The monkeypox virus is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact. Human-to-human transmission can also occur. PTI

Children neglected

2,000 The number of children who have died in specialised adoption agencies since 2014, according to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. As per the data, as many as 287 children died in specialised adoption agencies in 2014-15, 289 in 2015-16, 281 in 2016-17, 321 in 2017-18, 253 in 2018-19, 282 in 2019-20, 182 in 2020-21 and 132 in 2021-22. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani stated that 27,085 children have been adopted since 2014. PTI

Infosys profits

53.6 In billion rupees, the net profit of Infosys in the third quarter ending June 30. The profit of the country's second-largest IT firm rose 3.2% year-on-year this quarter. But seen sequentially, net profits declined 5.7% compared to the previous quarter, as operating expenses including employee benefits and travel costs rose. Revenues grew 23.6% year-on-year to 344.70 billion in this quarter, helped by sustained demand for digital services in North America and Europe. PTI

Vacant seats

1,456 The number of seats for the NEET-PG 2021 that remained vacant despite five rounds of counselling including a special round, according to the government in Lok Sabha. The Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar was responding to a question on whether seats had remained vacant even after exhausting all permissible rounds of counselling. The Medical Counselling Committee of the Directorate General of Health Services has been entrusted to conduct counselling. PTI

Migrants adrift

1,100 The number of migrants struggling to reach Europe who were picked up by ships in the Mediterranean Sea on Sunday. Italian vessels have recovered five bodies and rescued 674 people packed on a fishing boat adrift in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast, according to the Italian Coast Guard. European charities reported saving 500 more people. The Coast Guard said it was just one in a series of rescues in recent days in the Italian search and rescue operations in the central Mediterranean. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Explained | A recap of the monkeypox outbreak

By declaring monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern, how does the WHO plan to tackle and contain its spread?

THE GIST

- Ever since the first case of monkeypox in humans was identified in 1970, in the present Democratic Republic of the Congo, the virus has become endemic in parts of Central and West Africa.
- The designation of monkeypox as a PHEIC entails accelerating international efforts to contain the spread of the disease before it escalates into a pandemic. This would mean promoting countries to devise efforts to control transmission and coordinate sharing of key resources.
- There are no specific treatments available for monkeypox. Clinical management of monkeypox includes relieving symptoms and managing complications and preventing long-term effects.

VINOD SCARIA
BANI JOLLY

The story so far: Monkeypox, an uncommon viral infection which was primarily restricted to some countries in western and central Africa as well as travellers to these countries has now spilled over driven by zoonotic events. The disease made headlines with its international spread with over 16,000 cases in over 75 countries to date, primarily driven by human to human contact, spreading predominantly among, but not exclusively in gay, bisexual and MSM (men who have sex with men) communities. On July 23, 2022, amid a rapid rise in monkeypox cases across the globe, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director General of World Health Organization (WHO) declared the disease outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

What is monkeypox and what causes the disease?

First discovered in 1958, in monkeys at the Statens Serum Institute in Denmark, monkeypox is a zoonotic virus that can infect humans as well as other animals, including rodents and other primate species. Ever since the first case in humans was identified in 1970, in the present Democratic Republic of the Congo, the virus has become endemic in parts of Central and West Africa primarily driven by zoonotic spillovers. Despite being denoted as 'monkeypox', the actual origin and source of the disease are unknown and therefore a misnomer in many ways. The virus belongs to the same family of viruses as variola – the virus that causes smallpox. The disease presents with symptoms that are similar to those previously seen in smallpox patients, although it is less contagious and less severe.

Symptoms of monkeypox include fever, headache, muscle pain, and lethargy along with rashes and blisters commonly on the face, palms, feet, mouth, eyes or genitalia. These symptoms generally appear within two weeks since infection but can last for two to four weeks, with severe cases occurring mostly among children. In most cases, monkeypox is a self-limited disease that resolves spontaneously without any specific treatment. However, newborns, young children and people with underlying immune deficiencies may be at a higher risk of developing more severe symptoms.

How is the virus transmitted?

The virus can be transmitted from both animals to humans and between humans. Animal-to-human transmission of the virus can result from close contact with blood, fluids or skin lesions of infected animals. Human-to-human transmission could happen through close contact, and through body secretions, skin lesions or contaminated articles of individuals infected with monkeypox.

Close human contact during sexual activities is believed to be a driver of the current spread of the disease, as evidenced by its predominant spread in gay, bisexual and MSM communities.

How is the current outbreak different?

Since its initial detection in humans in 1970 in Africa, the first outbreak of monkeypox outside of Africa was reported in 2003 in the U.S. where multiple cases were found to be linked to close contact with infected imported animals. Recently, in May 2022, several cases of the disease were reported from regions where monkeypox was not endemic, and most cases had a history of travel to Europe or North America and not Africa. Before the current outbreak, monkeypox was predominantly reported from Africa while all cases reported in patients from other countries were linked to travel to regions where the disease was commonly found or because of contact with imported animals. As of now, no links between these new cases of contact with infected animals have been established. The number of confirmed monkeypox cases increased more than 70% from late June through early July 2022, with a majority of the case burden being in Europe. There is, however, limited knowledge about the source and transmission routes of the 2022 outbreak as well as the changes in the virus that helped it infect humans more than before, making monkeypox a disease of global public health importance.

What does declaring monkeypox a health emergency entail?

The WHO defines a PHEIC as a disease outbreak that "constitutes a public health risk through the international spread of disease" which may require an immediate and coordinated international response. Since 2009, the WHO has made seven PHEIC declarations including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This designation entails accelerating international efforts to contain the spread of the disease before it escalates into a pandemic. This would mean promoting countries to devise efforts to control transmission and coordinate sharing of key resources such as vaccines and therapeutics apart from heightened contact tracing, diagnosis and vaccination. While studies are underway to understand the epidemiology, transmission routes, and clinical presentations of the disease, the WHO will offer support to affected nations for developing an effective outbreak response and surveillance as well as prevention and therapeutic strategies against monkeypox.

There are a few factors that are advantageous. Firstly there is a wealth of information on the virus and methods to contain the spread, as well as management of the disease, thanks to researchers from Africa who have been able to contain outbreaks for decades. Additionally there is availability of a fairly effective vaccine, despite the logistical issues along with a widely available infrastructure for molecular diagnosis, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Genomic surveillance of the pathogen provides a unique opportunity to trace the contact networks as well as evaluate the continued evolution of the virus. While it is heartening to note that a large number of genomes of monkeypox from the present outbreak has been available in public domain, there is a significant disparity in the numbers from developing countries, especially from Asia including India.

What are the current prevention and treatment options against monkeypox?

There are no specific treatments available for monkeypox. Clinical management of monkeypox includes relieving symptoms and managing complications and preventing long-term effects. It is also not currently understood if a previous monkeypox infection lends protective immunity against future infections. However, due to the

genetic similarities of smallpox and monkeypox viruses, vaccines and antiviral agents used for the worldwide eradication of smallpox can also protect against monkeypox. The WHO reports that vaccination against smallpox is approximately 85% effective in preventing monkeypox and thus prior immunisation against smallpox may lead to mild disease. Although the original smallpox vaccines are not available to the general public, newer vaccines have been developed of which one was approved in 2019 for monkeypox prevention. Studies are now being conducted to understand the effectiveness and feasibility of vaccination in preventing monkeypox.

While the world discusses the nuances of why Dr.Tedros declared monkeypox as a global health emergency despite the committee voting against it almost a month ago, it is possibly time for the world to realise that with global warming, increasing human-wildlife conflicts across the globe and and ubiquitous global travel, efforts for global public health co-operation and sharing of resources never had a better time. As we come out of a global pandemic, there is never a better time to be prepared for newer challenges.

The authors are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), Delhi

EXPLAINER

Indian sports bodies under scandal and scrutiny

What are the various controversies in the football and hockey organisations of India? Why are international bodies unhappy with their functioning?

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

The story so far: The sports administration in India was in the headlines frequently these past few weeks all for the wrong reasons. Both the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) face potential ban/suspension if elections to the executive body are not done immediately. Hockey India has also come under scrutiny by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the delay in conducting elections.

What happened?

A seven-member delegation of the world football governing body FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation had come to the country last month for a meeting with the Committee of Administrators (CoA). The CoA was entrusted with the running of football by the Supreme Court after the executive committee of the AIFF was dissolved for violating the Central government's sports code. It was mandated that by July 31, the amendments to the AIFF's new constitution have to be made and the elections for the national football body completed by September 15. If not, India would face a FIFA ban.

The IOA is also being warned of a possible suspension by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). The IOA elections, scheduled to have been held last December, have not been conducted yet. The recent letter from the IOC to the executive council members of the IOA expressed concerns about the multiple legal proceedings that caused delays and created unnecessary complications.

The FIH wrote to the CoA, which is currently administrating hockey in the country as the Delhi High Court found Hockey India's executive board in violation of the National Sports Code. The letter from the FIH stresses on the need to have elections based on the rules laid down by the Indian government. It also raised concerns about Hockey India getting its act together before the 2023 World Cup, which India is scheduled to host in January.

What is the Sports Code?

The Sports Code, or National Sports Development Code of India to be precise, was introduced in 2011 by the Central government, which wanted good governance practices in the management of sports at the national level without interfering in the autonomy of the national sports bodies. It was widely

accepted that such a sports code was needed as it was felt that most of the sports federations had become personal fiefdoms of certain individuals – many of them politicians – as they continued to remain in power for long periods. The National Spots Code laid down restrictions regarding age and tenure.

What happens when a sports body is found to be in violation of the Sports Code?

The respective federations can be put under a CoA. That is what happened with the football and hockey associations. Last May, the Supreme Court had appointed a three-member CoA led by former Supreme Court judge A.R. Dave to run the AIFF, whose president Praful Patel had to resign. The Sports Ministry in an affidavit had said that Mr. Patel continuing in his post would be in violation of the Sports Code as he had been the president for more than 12 years.

In a similar fashion, the Delhi High Court observed that the Sports Code was violated by Hockey India and a CoA was formed to run the game's administration in India.

Why was Narinder Batra, a veteran Indian sports administrator, in the news recently?

On July 18, Mr. Batra resigned from the IOC, IOA and FIH. He was the president of FIH and the IOA and a member of the IOC. He cited personal reasons for his resignation, which came a couple of weeks after the Delhi High Court refused to stay the order that had barred him from officiating as the IOA president. The court had earlier ruled his appointment as a life member of Hockey India as illegal. Mr. Batra has been one of India's most influential sports administrators in recent times, but things aren't going well for him now. On the day of his multiple resignations, the CBI registered a case against him for alleged misappropriation of Hockey India's funds (₹35 lakh).

What have been the previous instances where a CoA was formed for administering sports bodies?

In February, the Delhi High court appointed Gita Mittal as the chairperson of the CoA to run the Table Tennis Federation of India, which was suspended following an inquiry into the match-fixing allegations raised by one of India's leading players, Manika Batra. She had alleged that national coach Soumyadeep Roy had asked her to throw her match to Sutirtha Mukherjee so that the latter could qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

In 2017, the Supreme Court had appointed a CoA to implement the reforms in the administration of cricket in the country suggested by the Justice R.M. Lodha committee. The CoA consisted of Vinod Rai, Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye and Diana Edulji. However, Mr. Guha resigned the committee a few months later. The Lodha committee had been appointed in 2015 following the report submitted by the Justice Mukul Mudgal Committee that investigated the IPL spot-fixing scandal in 2013. The CoA's tenure came to an end in 2019 with former India captain Sourav Ganguly being elected as the BCCI president and Jay Shah as its secretary.

THE GIST

- FIFA would ban AIFF if the amendments to the AIFF's new constitution and elections to the national football body were not completed by the given deadlines. The IOA and Hockey India have also been warned by their respective international bodies for the delay in elections. All bodies are also under legal scrutiny for violation of the Sports Code.
- The Sports Code was introduced in 2011 by the Central government, which wanted good governance practices in the management of sports.
- If a body is found to be violative of the sports code, it can be put under a Committee of Administrators (CoA).

BBMP bans road-digging for 3 months, but without success

Several agencies have sought exemptions from the civic body and dug up roads

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

The white-topping work undertaken by the BBMP on Gangadhar Chetty Road, near Ulsoor lake. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Given the incessant rains and the deteriorating condition of roads, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently imposed a three-month ban on all road-digging in the city, except ongoing works.

However, ever since the ban was imposed, several utilities have sought exemptions and dug up roads, even as telecom service providers (TSPs) continue to dig roads illegally to lay optic-fibre cables (OFCs) unabated, making the three-month ban dead on arrival.

The Kommaghatta Main Road in Kengeri, relaid ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on June 20, was dug up by TSPs to lay OFCs.

"The road was dug up just days after the PM's visit and was relaid again. Neither was the TSP stopped nor was it penalised for digging up a newly relaid road," said Prashanth Kumar, a resident of the area, adding that the same TSP was now digging inner ward roads in the area, with no civic official stopping them.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath conceded that TSPs were violating the ban on road-digging in the city. "There is a clear ban and we have instructed all zonal commissioners to book criminal cases against TSPs if they are found digging up roads," he said.

Recently, the BBMP booked a criminal case against representatives of Reliance Jio for digging a recently relaid road near Lalbagh. However, in many other instances, no cases are being booked.

Meanwhile, agencies like the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) have also sought exemptions and have begun several works, undermining the three-month ban, sources said.

Mr. Nath said the civic body had initially given an exemption to Bescom and BWSSB to carry out only horizontal directional drilling (HDD) – drilling underground and not an open trench cutting the road – to provide connection to individual houses. "However, the BWSSB cannot provide connections to individual houses through HDD, so they are digging up roads," he said.

The BWSSB and Bescom have also sought exemptions from the ban citing the critical nature of works.

"Following requests, we have sought a list of important works these utilities want to take up on a priority basis. Once it is available, we will allow works where it doesn't affect the traffic flow, road condition, and the residents much," Mr. Nath said.

However, there are several places, such as the Gangadhar Chetty Road adjoining Ulsoor Lake, where the BWSSB has already started new works and dug up the road.

Vegetable prices set to soar in city as festival season approaches

Recent rains have led to crop loss and a fall in supply, driving prices northwards

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Although the prices of vegetables in the market usually sees a dip during the period between July and August (month of Aashada), this year it has seen a hike in the last 10 days.

Recent rains have led to crop loss and a fall in supply, driving the prices northwards. Traders say the prices are only expected to go up further by the upcoming festival and wedding season (month of Shravana starting July 29).

As always, beans are at the top of the chart with a wholesale price of ₹70 and around ₹85 per kilogram at retail markets.

The price of capsicum has also seen a lot of fluctuations in the last few days and has averaged between ₹80 and ₹90 in retail marts.

"The price of capsicum hit almost ₹100 per kilo a few days ago. Then it started falling again. Currently, it is at ₹80 - 85," said a manager at HOPCOMS.

He added that an increasing trend has been observed among vegetable prices in the last few weeks.

Even those vegetables which are usually on the cheaper side, like cabbage and pumpkin, have also seen a sharp hike, with the former being priced at ₹40 per kilo and the latter ₹15 per kilo.

A trader mentioned that during the season, pumpkin prices do not usually cross ₹10 per kg. The rains earlier this year managed to bring a good supply of vegetables to the markets, but the monsoon has hampered the crops in some regions.

"We will see a serious increase in prices as the monsoon gains pace in the coming weeks. The month of Shravana will also start soon and bring festivals, which leads to a slight increase in demand," said Sridhar, of K.R. Market Vegetable Traders' Association.

Another trader, Manjunath, also seconded his opinion, and said: "The wedding season will also start after the Varamahalakshmi festival. Vegetables will definitely get costlier".

The rains have also affected the potato fields in Hassan district (the leading producer of the crop in the State).

However, the supply is still sufficient to cater to the demand, traders say. "Other vegetable prices have fluctuated a little bit. But prices of potatoes and onions have been stable despite damages," said B.L. Shankarappa, president, Potato and Onion Traders Association, Yeshwanthpur.

A 50-kilogram bag of potatoes is priced between ₹800 and ₹1,000, while a bag of onions costs ₹700 to ₹800.

Consumers who have been bearing the brunt of rising prices of commodities for a long time, now are upset that the festival season will get costlier this year.

"I paid ₹50 for a kg of brinjal and after hearing that capsicum is ₹90 per kg, I did not even buy it. We usually have guests over for festivals and if the prices rise further, then we have to start celebrating in a budgeted manner," said Rajendra R., a resident of North Bengaluru.

Vegetable prices on July 24

Vegetable	Price per kg (HOPCOMS)	Price per kg (K.R. Market)
Beans	80	70
Carrot	65	40 - 50
Capsicum	80 - 85	60
Brinjal	36	20 - 25
Lady's finger	40	25
Pumpkin (Ash gourd)	20 - 25	15
Cabbage	25 - 30	40
Tomato	6 - 25	4 - 6

Tomato prices see a fall

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

After a record high of ₹120 per kg, tomato prices have yet again crashed owing to excessive supply.

At K.R. Market, the selling price is between ₹4 and ₹6 per kg while at HOPCOMS, the highest quality is selling for ₹25 per kg. "This is evidence which shows how vegetable prices crash as quickly as they rise. With everyone sowing tomatoes, there are not enough takers in the city," Sridhar of K.R. Market Vegetable Traders' Association said.

It was also reported earlier this week that farmers dumped their tomatoes on the roads owing to low prices in Kolar.

Citizens pay the price as many loan apps continue to wreak havoc

'At least one in 10 cyber crime cases are related to harassment by loan app operators'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

> Even when particular apps are flagged by security agencies, the response of the service provider is poor and laidback. Many of the apps that we flagged still continue to be on the Google Playstore allowing more people to be harassed and cheated
> AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER

> Most of the executives of these apps use WhatsApp calls and laptops to communicate. Accessing the IP address to track them is near impossible, unless mobile phones or direct calls are used.
> AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER

Some of the recent crimes reported

Case 1 R. Harish, from Banashankari, borrowed an instant loan of ₹58,000 after downloading a loan app and repaid ₹1.9 lakh. But he was getting threat messages and abuses every day demanding more money

Case 2 A 19-year-old girl had morphed obscene videos sent to her family and contact list demanding repayment of loan which she never borrowed

Case 3 Hrishikesh Radhakrishna, 20, a student from K.R. Puram, received a link on his mobile. He clicked it accidentally while deleting the link. Soon the Alexandria, the Kangaroo loan, and the Loan Seva apps were downloaded on his mobile and ₹45,000 was deducted from his bank account and transferred to three accounts. The accused wrote 'Rapist' on the copy of his PAN card and circulated it to his friends and family, demanding repayment.

Safety tips

Use protected and safe websites	Do not access any unknown links	Do not download any unauthorised apps
Ensure strong password for your device and social media accounts	Call 112 [Cybercrime Incident Report facility] to get the bank accounts into which the money is transferred frozen in case of fraudulent access or data theft	

A 37-year-old businesswoman from Yelahanka recently approached the North East Cyber Crime Police to report about five mobile numbers, which were not only spamming her with calls, but had also accessed her trading app to withdraw ₹4,800.

The victim said that a person, who called to inform her about a loan app Rupee, started harassing her, her contacts, and her family members to repay a loan that she never took. She never downloaded the app, she said in her complaint.

The businesswoman is not alone. The loan app scam seems to be a new category of cyber crime. It has topped the list of cases being reported in the city recently.

At least one in 10 cyber crime cases being reported in the city are related to harassment by loan apps, said senior police officials. Despite awareness and measures to curtail the menace, it continues unabated.

The modus operandi is simple: there are hundreds of apps on the Google Playstore offering quick loans.

Any person who downloads one of these apps gives access to his/her mobile phone. People who have access to the phone can cause havoc, a senior police officer, said.

However, even those who have not downloaded these apps may also get messages, as one of their contacts might have done so.

Investigation into these cases also faces major challenges.

"Most of the executives of these apps use WhatsApp calls and laptops to communicate. Accessing the IP address to track them is near impossible, unless mobile phones or direct calls are used," an officer involved in multiple probes said.

The trend began with Chinese instant loan apps, busted across the country two years ago. However, soon local cyber crooks have caught on to the trend and loan apps have mushroomed, posing a challenge to the police.

Police officers also blame a lack of due diligence by the digital service providers allowing these apps to mushroom. "Even when particular apps are flagged by the security agencies, the response of the service provider is poor and laidback. Many of the apps that we flagged still continue to be on the Google Playstore allowing more people to be harassed and cheated," the official said.

"A growing number of cyber crimes related to loan apps is a matter of concern and needs a well-coordinated effort to tackle it effectively," Anoop A. Shetty, DCP, North East Division.

The City Cyber Crime Police have also brought out a comic strip to inform the public about the dangers posed by the loan apps.

The Reserve Bank of India has also brought out a handbook, *Raju and 40 thieves*, for the same, but the loan apps continue to harass and defraud thousands every day.

Duo held for robbing civil contractor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Giri Nagar police on Sunday arrested an MBA graduate and his assistant for stealing valuables and a bike from a civil contractor on July 2.

The police verified the CCTV camera footage to identify the accused and arrested them when they returned to the city on Sunday.

Deepak L., inspector, Giri Nagar station, who led the investigation, said that the accused had noticed Lokesh, a civil contractor and resident of Srinagar, who was allegedly inebriated and waiting for his family members.

The Hoysala patrolling team advised him not to drive in an inebriated condition and offered to drop him home. But Mr. Lokesh said that he would call his family to pick him up, said the police.

The accused, Sridhar, 29, an MBA graduate, and Nitin Raj, 18, a high-school dropout, allegedly approached Mr. Lokesh, attacked him, before stealing his gold chain, ring, mobile phone, and wallet, containing ₹20,000, and sped away after snatching his bike.

The accused soon rode to M.M. hills on the stolen bike and stayed there for three days. They even offered donation with the stolen money as penance before heading to Goa to party, said the police.

The accused allegedly pawned the gold valuables and spent the money in Goa before returning to the city. The police waiting for the accused pinned them down.

'Remaining potholes will be filled at the earliest'

4,500 were identified, according to BBMP Chief Commissioner

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath inspecting ongoing works at major junctions in Bengaluru on Saturday night. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has maintained that around 1,500 potholes on major roads, main roads of the wards, and others in the city will be filled at the earliest.

'Most work completed'

Chief Commissioner of BBMP Tushar Giri Nath, during a late-night inspection of traffic junctions selected for decongestion on Saturday, told presspersons that in the city 4,500 potholes were identified for filling and most of the filling works were already completed.

The official said that on Monday the measures taken to fill potholes will be reviewed. He added that city traffic police also did an assessment on the potholes.

Asked how prepared the BBMP was to face the projected rains in the coming days, Mr. Nath said that all the measures were in place to clear waterlogging on the roads. "Officials have been given targets on removing silt from rajakaluves and to ensure the free flow of rainwater to the drains. For each ward, ₹40 lakh has been allocated under the disaster management fund. The emergency response team is also ready for clearing uprooted trees and pruning of branches which pose a risk," the official said.

On decongesting traffic junctions, the official said that construction debris and other waste on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will be cleared. He added that agencies, such as BMRCL, BWSSB, and others, will fulfil their responsibility for easing traffic at these junctions.

Man arrested for killing landlady

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Channammanakere Achukattu police on Sunday arrested a 29-year-old man for allegedly killing his 75-year-old landlady, to avoid repaying a loan. He also robbed valuables from her house to clear his other debts, said the police.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Jaikishan, was moving around with them on the pretext of assisting with the investigation. However, the police checked the backgrounds of the tenants and arrested him.

According to the police, Jaikishan had borrowed a loan from the victim, Yashodhamma. Ms. Yashodhamma started pestering him to return the money, but the accused had borrowed from other sources too, and could not repay her, said the police.

The accused decided to eliminate Yashodhamma, said the police, and stabbed her repeatedly, while she was alone at home, and stole her valuables on July 2.

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Philomena's Hospital

Please be informed that inpatient records (IP Charts) for the year 2014, of St.Philomena's Hospital, # 4, Campbell Road, Viveknagar Post, Bangalore – 560047, will be discarded after one month from this announcement date of 25th July 2022.

Dr.Shankar Prasad
Medical Director
St.Philomena's Hospital

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER YADGIR
(DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL)
E-mail : itstaff_dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com dudc_yadgiri@yahoo.com Ph. : 08473-253288

No : DUDC/PLAN/Nagarothana Ph-04/ /2021-22/530 Dated : 21-07-2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of work : Construction of Road, Drain and Providing Street Lights At Various Locations of Kembhavi Town And Construction Of Toilet In Ward No 16, Shadimahal, Ashrakhana, Valmiki Samudaya Bhavana And Nijasharana Ambigara Chavadayya Samudaya Bhavana In Kembhavi Town Under Chief Minister's Amrut Nagartothana (Municipality) Phase-4, 2) Head of Account : Nagarothana Ph-04, 3) Amount put to tender : Rs. 386.64 Lakhs, 4) Class of Contractor : Company Registration Certificate, 5) Pre-bid meeting date and time : 16-08-2022 at 11:00 AM in DUDC, DC Office, Yadgir, 6) Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 22-08-2022 at 17.30, 7) Tender form fee and EMD value in Rs. : Tender form as per E-portal, EMD Value Rs. 6,59,000/-, 8) Date and time for opening of technical bid : 24-08-2022 at 11.00 AM, 9) Contact information : Executive Engineer, DUDC, DC Office, Yadgir, 10) Refer E-procurement website for further queries : www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Yadgiri/180/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DUDC Yadgir.

CACHE

The challenges of fiberisation ahead of India's 5G deployment

Why are optical fibre cables necessary for accessing 5G technology?

ABHISHEK CHATTERJEE

THE GIST

- The process of connecting radio towers with each other via optical fibre cables is called fiberisation. It helps provide full utilisation of network capacity, and carry large amounts of data once 5G services are rolled out.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 2020 Independence Day speech, laid out the vision to connect every village in the country with optical fiber cable (OFC) in 1,000 days. To reach the targeted level of fiberisation, India requires about ₹2.2 lakh crore of investment to help fiberise 70% towers.
- Satellite communication also can facilitate 5G broadband connectivity to areas where it is not feasible to deploy terrestrial infrastructure like remote villages, islands or mountainous regions.

The story so far: India is preparing to auction off about 72 Ghz of airwaves to rollout 5G services in the country. However, the infrastructure needed for such a rollout requires existing radio towers to be connected via optical-fibre cables. The work of connecting the towers could prove to be a huge challenge for the country.

What is fiberisation?

The process of connecting radio towers with each other via optical fibre cables is called fiberisation. It helps provide full utilisation of network capacity, and carry large amounts of data once 5G services are rolled out. It will also aid in providing additional bandwidth and stronger backhaul support. The backhaul is a component of the larger transport that is responsible for carrying data across the network. It represents the part of the network that connects the core of the network to the edge. As a result, fibre backhaul remains an important part of transport across all telecoms, Sajan Paul, Managing Director & Country Manager, India & SAARC, Juniper Networks, a telecom infrastructure company, told *The Hindu*.

Fibre-based media, commonly called optical media, provides almost infinite bandwidth and coverage, low latency and high insulation from interference. With 5G, it will also be necessary to increase the density of mobile towers to provide better coverage to consumers and businesses. This calls for increased requirements for fibre deployment, Mr. Paul said.

Where does India stand with respect to tower fiberisation?

To transition into 5G, India needs at least 16 times more fibre, according to estimates by STL, a technology company specialised in optical fibers and cables.

In India, currently only 33% of the towers are fiberised, compared to the 65%-70% in South Korea and 80%-90% in the U.S., Japan and China, according to a 2021 report by India Infrastructure Research. The fibre kilometer (fkm) per capita in India is lower than other key markets. Ideally, a country needs 1.3 km of fibre per capita to ensure good fiberisation. India's fkm is just .09 compared to 1.35 in Japan, 1.34 in the U.S. and 1.3 in China, the report noted.

There is also a need to increase data capacity in the fiberised towers. These tower sites which are connected via fibre are called fibre point of presence (POP). Currently these fibre POPs at a tower site can handle data at one to five Gbps speed, Nitin Bansal, managing director, India & head - Networks, Southeast Asia, Oceania & India, Ericsson, told *The Hindu*.

What are the challenges?

To reach the targeted level of fiberisation, India requires about ₹2.2 lakh crore of investment to help fiberise 70% towers. About ₹2.5 lakh crore will be needed to set up 15 lakh towers in the next four years, according to estimates by the National Broadband Mission and Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI).

Government programmes like BharatNet and Smart Cities will further add to the demand of fibre deployment, necessitating a complete tower fiberisation. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his 2020 Independence Day speech, laid out the vision to connect every village in the country with optical fiber cable (OFC) in 1,000 days. To achieve that vision, cables must be laid at a speed of 1,251 km a day, around 3.6 times the current average speed of 350 km a day, according to a report by EY, a global professional services company.

One of the biggest issues in the way of fiberisation remains the Right of Way (RoW) rules. The Indian Telegraph RoW Rules 2016 were gazette notified by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Govt. of India on November 15, 2016. The rules aim to incorporate nominal one-time compensation and uniform procedure for establishment of Overground Telegraph Line (OTL) anywhere in the country.

While all States/UTs are required to implement these rules, they are not in complete alignment and still require certain amendments to align, the EY report pointed out. Further, several districts and local bodies have not agreed to the RoW policies as notified in those respective States. These places are following their own bylaws overriding the State RoW policies aligned with the RoW rules, 2016, EY said.

Other central Ministries like the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highway Authority of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Post, etc. have not yet adopted these Rules, citing their own departmental rules, EY said.

Global network intelligence firm Ookla highlighted the DoT's GatiShakti Sanchar online portal as a way to simplify RoW approvals and help deploy cables for 5G. "This initiative will enable centralisation of RoW approvals for telecom infrastructure projects, including 5G and help operators to deploy required infrastructure for the upcoming 5G rollout in a timely manner," Sylwia Kechiche, Principal Analyst, Ookla, said to *The Hindu*. In October 2021, the DoT revised the RoW rules, making it easier to install aerial optical fibre cable in the country. This can enable infrastructure providers to deploy cables overhead via street light poles and traffic light posts.

Pilot projects are underway in a few locations like the Delhi airport. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has also published a consultation paper on using street furniture for small cell and aerial fiber deployment. This along with the findings from the pilot projects will help to inform the regulatory and policy framework, Ms. Kechiche added.

Can satellite communication help in 5G deployment and improve network backhaul?

Processing power needs to be distributed from centralised data centres to edge servers closer to users.

Satellite communication can provide high-capacity backhaul connectivity to large numbers of edge servers over wide areas, thereby complementing the terrestrial network with cost-effective scalability, according to a report by Intelsat, a satellite service provider.

Satellite communication can facilitate 5G broadband connectivity to underserved areas where it is not feasible to deploy terrestrial infrastructure like remote villages, islands or mountainous regions. Satellite-based networks are the only means for delivering 5G broadband to users on board moving vessels, including cars, ships, airplanes and high-speed trains. In addition, space-based broadcast capabilities support over-the-air software updates for connected cars anywhere in the world, the Intelsat report said.

Space-based backhaul will also provide disaster relief services, support emergency response teams as well as deliver broadband connectivity for one-off entertainment or sports events anywhere in the world, Intelsat said.

The low-Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites will be well-suited to offer not only backhaul, but also direct connectivity. As the 5G standard is adopted, new markets will open up for satellite operators, including IoT, private 5G, and cellular backhaul for densification to enable more cell sites and edge devices, Ms. Kechiche added.

THE DAILY QUIZ

July 22 was celebrated as National Mango Day. Here is a quiz on mangoes

1. In which year did India declare mango as its national fruit?
2. The 'Malgoa' mango is the outcome of experiments made in India by which settler group?
3. This is the most expensive variety of mango in the world due to the care it needs to bear fruit. Name the mango.
4. This country produces around 20 million tonnes of mangoes and is known for being the top producer of mangoes in the world. Name the country.
5. What is the name of the teardrop-shaped Indian textile pattern inspired by mangoes?
6. This was the first Mughal emperor to feast on nothing but different kinds of mangoes for a meal. Name the emperor.

This man is the president of a party which contests under the symbol of a ripe mango. Name him and the party. •FILE PHOTO

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the July 22 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This hockey player was first ever tribal citizen to win the Padma Shree award. **Ans: Dilip Tirkey**
2. This soldier won the Param Vir Chakra posthumously for his bravery during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 in the battle of Gangasagar (present day Bangladesh). **Ans: Lance Naik Albert Ekka**
3. This environmentalist made her mark by planting thousands of trees in Karnataka and won the Padma Shri in 2021. **Ans: Tulsi Gowda**
4. This person, who is a Ramon Magsaysay awardee, was the first citizen from a northeastern State to become the Chief Election Commissioner of India. **Ans: J.M. Lyngdoh**
5. This Sambhalpuri poet and writer who was awarded the Padma Shri for his achievements and who is celebrated as Lok Kabhi Ratna, comes from humble origins and still lives an austere lifestyle. **Ans: Haldhar Nag**
Visual: This ace archer who equalled a world record at the Asian Archery Championships in 1992. **Ans: Limba Ram**

Early Birds: Dipankar Baidya| Rupam Kumari| Gyan Prakash| Kiran Raveendran| Ravindra Kumar Sahu

Compiled by: S.Sowmya

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Now don't look so put out!

Focus on learning slowly and practise everyday, don't get distracted

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning of 'put out' in the following sentence? *The committee was put out by Madhuri's statement.* (M. Uma, Chennai)

The expression 'put out' has several different meanings. When you say that someone was put out by the comment you made, what you are suggesting is that the individual did not take kindly to your criticism. He was annoyed or very upset by the statement. It is possible for your actions to 'put out' people as well. You may be upsetting them intentionally or accidentally.

Kshema and her sister were put out at not being invited to Prem's party.

I don't know what was said at the meeting, but Rahul looked really put out.

What is the difference between 'distract' and 'detract'? (L. Jambunathan, Ongole)

Both verbs have the stress on the second syllable; they are pronounced di-TRACT and dis-TRACT respectively. The word 'detract' comes from the Latin 'detrahere' meaning to 'take down' or 'pull down'. When you 'detract from' something, what you are doing is reducing or diminishing its value. You are taking away all the attention that someone has given it.

The editing is not particularly good in some places. But it does not in any way detract from the overall quality of the film.

The smell emanating from the mouldy walls certainly detracted from the beauty of the palace.

'Distract' comes from the Latin 'distrahere' meaning 'draw in different directions'. When you are 'distracted', your mind wanders; it is drawn or pulled in different directions. Something causes you to lose focus; there is something on your mind.

The professor was distracted by the noise coming from the back of the classroom.

If you want to win, stay focussed. Do not let the rowdy spectators distract you.

Is it okay to say, 'After her fall, she has great difficulty to walk to the bathroom'? (C. Harish, Chennai)

No, it isn't. You generally don't have 'great difficulty to do something', but 'great difficulty in doing something'. The correct sentence would be, 'She had great difficulty in walking to the bathroom'. You could also say, 'She had great difficulty walking to the bathroom'. If you wish to use 'to walk' in your sentence, then you will have to say, 'She was finding it difficult to walk to the bathroom'.

Priya had great difficulty in understanding the problem.

The children had great difficulty in convincing their parents.

Priya was finding it difficult to understand the problem.

Is it okay to refer to someone as a 'firecracker'? (Ashok Tiwari, Lucknow)

Firecrackers are something that everyone in India is familiar with – we have all heard them explode at the time of Deepavalli. In native varieties of English, the word is sometimes used to refer to people and things. When you refer to a person as being a firecracker, you are suggesting that he/she is someone who is very exciting to be with – a very attractive individual who is full of energy. The word can also be used to talk about books, movies, etc.

We don't have anyone like Suman in our family. She's nearly 80, but she's still a firecracker.

The actor strongly believes that his next movie will be a real firecracker.

upendrankye@gmail.co

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Two city policemen among 3 dead in mishap in Chittoor dist.

They were on their way to catch drug peddlers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Chittoor police inspecting the scene of accident on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two policemen attached to the Shivajinagar police station here were among three killed in a road accident at Pootalapattu town in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh early on Sunday.

Sub-inspector Avinash and constable Anil Mulik, and driver of the vehicle Maxwell, attached to a private travel agency, died in the accident. The driver was reportedly overspeeding and is suspected to have dozed off and collided with the median while negotiating a railway underpass. Owing to the impact, the car overturned and was damaged badly.

The victims were pursuing a NDPS case to track down peddlers who had supplied marijuana to a local peddler, Syed Tousif. Tousif, 20, a labourer and resident of Yarabnagar, was arrested by inspector Ravikumar M.C., while he was selling drugs to his contacts in the area on Saturday.

Based on his information, a police team, led by Avinash, Dikshith (probationary PSI), Bhakta Kumar, ASI, and constables Mir Abdul Hasan, Abdul Rahman, Sharana Basappa, Anil Mulik, and Shivappa Kalagi, along with an informant linked to the peddlers, hired two cabs and left for Chittoor to nab them. While Avinash, Dikshith , Sharana Basappa, and Anil Mulik boarded an SUV, the others got into another vehicle.

Passers-by who saw the accident rushed to help. Using the phone of the injured, they called the other police team that was ahead. The vehicle of the other team, which was rushing back upon hearing about the accident, developed a technical snag, but somehow managed to reach the spot and join in the rescue work.

The victims were shifted to a nearby hospital where Avinash, Anil Mulik, and Maxwell were declared brought dead.

The injured - Dikshith and Sharana Basappa - were taken to Vellore hospital. Dikhshith, who sustained a fracture on his right hand, was later shifted to HOSMAT while Sharana Basappa is said to be out of danger.

Avinash, 29, from Bidar, joined service three years ago and resided at Bagalagunte, while Anil Mulik, 26, was from Jamkhandi and was residing at Halasuru police quarters.

A pall of gloom descended the Shivajinagar police station on Sunday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Home Minister Araga Jnanendra expressed their condolences and said that the government would stand by the families of the deceased policemen and extend all help to the injured persons.

Five killed, four injured in road accident near Koppal

SUV hits truck after driver loses control while overtaking it

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

The SUV that hit a truck near Koppal late on Saturday.

As many as five people, all related, were killed on the spot and four were injured In a road accident near Koppal late on Saturday.

The dead were identified as 60-year-old Devappa Koppad, 55-year-old Girijamma Koppad and 25-year-old Paravva Bhimappa, residents of Binnal village, 35-year-old Hanumappa, resident of Timmapur village, and 25-year-old Kasturi Nagappa, resident of Harlapur.

All these victims were related to each other.

The injured, 28-year-old Pallavi, seven-year-old Puttaraju, 35-year-old Harshavardhan and five-year-old Bhumika, have been admitted to the Koppal District Hospital. The condition of Puttaraju and his sister, Bhumika, is said to be critical.

As per information provided by the Koppal Police, the victims had come to Koppal for a birthday party organised at a hotel. After participating in the party, they were returning to their native village in a sports utility vehicle (SUV) when it hit a truck near Bhanapur, about 15 km from Koppal, at about 10.30 p.m.

It is learnt that the driver of the SUV made an attempt to overtake the truck but he found another vehicle in the opposite direction and in his bid to avoid a collision with that vehicle, lost control and hit the truck.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Koppal Superintendent of Police Arunangshu Giri said that in a complainant, a son of one of the dead people, has said that Harshavardhan, driver of the SUV, was responsible for the accident. The Superintendent of Police quoted the complainant as saying that it was the SUV driver's negligence that led to the accident.

"As many as five people were killed on the spot and four were injured. The injured were rushed to the District Hospital in Koppal. The condition of some of the injured is said to be critical. Their condition is being closely monitored in ICU. They might be shifted to a better facility," Mr. Giri said.

Rider killed as tanker overturns, catches fire

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

A motorcycle rider was killed after a diesel tanker overturned and caught fire near Harapanahalli in Vijayanagar district on Sunday.

The dead man was later identified as 33-year-old Mogeri Nagaraj who was riding the two-wheeler. Pillion rider 35-year-old Chandru, who suffered serious burns in the accident, was rushed to a hospital.

As per available information, the fuel tanker, which was on its way to Harapanahalli, overturned when it was descending a hilly inclination in the road and immediately caught fire as fuel leaked.

The riders, who were very close behind the tanker, were caught in the fire that broke out and one of them died on the spot. Fire and Emergency Services personnel from Harapanahalli later rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 25		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:49
RISE	03:00	SET 16:17
TUESDAY, JUL. 26		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	03:49	SET 17:08
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 27		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	04:39	SET 17:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	32	21
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C A comfoortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower is likely.

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www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 25, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained** | Why are Indian sports bodies under scandal and scrutiny? bit.ly/sportbodies
- **Explained** | A recap of the monkeypox outbreak bit.ly/monkeypoxrecap
- **Know your English** | Don't look so put out bit.ly/kyeputout

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

- **Explained** | Genetics and its Mendelian inheritance bit.ly/THMendel200
- **Watch** | Chennai Metro Rail construction causes traffic snarls, confusing diversions bit.ly/chemetrorail
- **Watch** | What is the Marburg virus? bit.ly/THMarburg
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

THE HINDU
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ISC results: 15 students from Karnataka in top three ranks on national merit list

Schools in State achieve pass percentage of 99.38

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Krithika Kannan

Sana Jose

Karnataka schools achieved a pass percentage of 99.38 in the Indian School Certificate (Class XII) results, announced by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Sunday.

A total of 15 students from the State made it to the top three ranks on the national merit list, while three students from Bengaluru shared the top rank at the State level.

Sana Jose from St. Joseph's Boys High School, Niveditha S. Warrier from Christ Academy ICSE School, and Sneha N. Shastri from St. Francis De Sales Public School were the State toppers with 99.5%. With 99.25%, eight other students bagged the second merit position, and with 99%, four students shared the third position.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Ms. Jose said that she was very happy and surprised with her results.

"I was certainly not expecting this. But now I am very excited. I was consistent in my preparations for my examinations and always maintained a right balance, between my academics and my co-curricular activities. Further, I would like to pursue a dual degree at IIM Indore and am currently preparing for that. I aspire to have a career in technology-driven businesses".

While her father has his own business venture, her mother works at Microsoft.

Krithika Kannan, from Sophia High School, who secured the second position (State level), said that she was quite relaxed while preparing.

Ms. Kannan, whose father is a filmmaker and her mother works in marketing, hopes to pursue a career in Data Science. "I have already completed my admission for the course at a university in the city," she added.

A total of 2,169 candidates from 46 schools in Karnataka wrote the examination this year. That included 1,005 boys and 1,164 girls.

The girls secured higher results this year too, with a pass percentage of 99.83, while boys got 99.6%.

Along with 12 Indian languages, five foreign languages, and two classical languages, the ISC examination was conducted in 49 written subjects this year.

Students in Other Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes categories achieved a pass percentage of 100, while Scheduled Castes students had a pass percentage of 98.36 in the State.

At the national level, the South had achieved the highest pass percentage of 99.81.

Eco-development projects to be taken up at M.M. Hills

Objective is to enhance income of local community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The Forest Department has decided to implement a slew of eco-development works in villages abutting the M.M. Hills Wildlife Sanctuary during the current financial year.

This includes development of Lokkanahalli in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district as a model village, which entails creating a milk dairy by harnessing the local breed of milk-yielding cows, to enhance conservation of soil and water, promote eco-tourism apart from organic farming among the local community.

The eco-development budget has been pegged at ₹80 lakh and has been approved by the government, said V. Yedukondalu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, M.M. Hills. He said the long-term plan is to promote dairy products and enhance the income of the farming community by securing a market for local dairy products.

The thrust is on dairy farming as agriculture is not sustainable given the harsh terrain and crop loss due to vagaries of nature and human-animal conflict.

The plan is to harness the local Hallikar breed of cattle and manufacture ghee and other items besides marketing them as a premium product.

Apart from focus on Lokkanahalli, the authorities also plan to take up bamboo plantation spread over 300 acres. There will be bamboo clusters including one at Chikkanur near Hanur and Ponnachi and will provide raw materials for artisans who have been trained in manufacture of handicraft items.

The development of bamboo cluster is being taken up as part of Bamboo Mission to increase its cultivation. The forest department has procured bamboo from Assam as the variety is ideal for making basket and other handicraft items. One the bamboo takes root, the raw material for the handicraft cluster can be sourced locally, said Mr. Yedukondalu.

Locals and tribal women have been trained to make bamboo water bottles, table lamps, trivet of bamboo useful to place hot utensils etc.

ICSE exam results bring joy to THiS institutions

SUDHINDR A.B.
BENGALURU

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) declared the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) examination results recently. The results brought joy to schools part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme.

In Sacred Heart Girls' High School, Shantala Nagar, 88 of 138 students secured distinctions. Kashish Malhotra (98%) was the topper. For the 10th consecutive year, St. Mary's International School, Undedasarahalli, achieved 100% pass. In all, 84 students secured distinctions. Ananya K.R., (98.8%) was the topper.

SJR Kengeri Public School achieved 100% pass for the 12th consecutive year. In all, 78 of 118 students secured distinctions. Mohsin Shaikh (99.20%) topped and was also the State third-rank holder.

For the 12th consecutive year, Sri Vani Education Centre, Basaveshwaranagar, achieved 100% pass. In all, 63 of 67 students secured distinctions.

St. Paul's English School, J.P. Nagar, achieved 100% pass for the 31st consecutive year. In all, 141 of 149 students secured distinctions. Aditya Krishna Murthy (99.20%) was the topper.

Amara Jyothi English School, K.R. Puram, too achieved 100% pass for the 10th consecutive year. In all, 29 of 31 students secured distinctions. Nithika M.(97.8%) was the topper.

VLS International School, Basaveshwaranagar, achieved 100% pass for the eighth consecutive year. In all, 22 of 43 students secured distinctions. Anagha H.Y. (96.4%) was the topper.

The New Cambridge English School, Vijayanagar, saw 100% pass for the 14th consecutive year. In all, 174 of 267 students secured distinctions. Manish R. (97.83%) was the topper.

For the 18th consecutive year, Embassy Public School, Magadi Road, achieved 100% pass. In all, 33 of 55 students secured distinctions. Niharika P. (96.2%) was the topper.

Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, achieved 100% pass for the 21st consecutive year. In all, 49 of 65 students secured distinctions. Vishwaradhya S Aiholli (98.8%) was the topper.

For the 12th consecutive year, Mitra Academy, Arakere, achieved 100% pass. In all 82 of 92 students secured distinctions. Tanisha Bhide (99.4%) stood third at national level.

Srikkanth bowls audience over at literature fest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Cricketer K. Srikkanth known to regale the crowd with his electrifying knocks on the field, bowled the audience with his talk laced with wit and life's experience on a different pitch at the Mysuru Literature Festival, here on Sunday.

The second and the final day of the festival - organised by Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust – had a packed gallery listening to Mr. Srikkanth.

The theme of his talk was 'Life Lessons from 1983 World Cup Victory' and the crux of his message was that unless there was passion coupled with self-belief, one cannot accomplish anything in life.

Citing from his experience in cricket, Mr. Srikkanth said that just as the changing playing conditions forces a player to adapt, so to one should adapt to different situations in life and said M.S. Dhoni best exemplified such a quality on the field.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RM No. KAREMG/2020/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Power tussle within Congress spills over to Vokkaliga turf

Party on damage-control mode after Zameer's statement on the community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami (centre) is said to have taken exception to the statement of Chamarajpet MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan (right) against the Vokkaliga community and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar.

The power struggle in the Congress over the post of the Chief Minister has now spilled over to the Vokkaliga turf. While the statement of former Minister and Chamarajpet MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan on Vokkaligas has riled many, Congress seems to be in damage control mode.

In a series of developments, former Minister and Congress leader from Mandya N. Cheluvarayaswamy met KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar along with former Magadi MLA Balakrishna to hold discussions on the fallout for the Congress in the Vokkaliga heartland.

Mr. Zameer's episode is the latest of the intense power struggle between former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post if Congress crosses the majority mark in the ensuing Assembly elections.

Referring to an earlier appeal by Mr. Shivakumar to the Vokkaliga community to back him in the elections, Mr. Khan had wanted Mr. Siddaramaiah to be the next Chief Minister, and had commented on the Vokkaliga community.

Congress sources said that Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami has taken exception to the statement of Mr. Khan and has conveyed the same to Vokkaliga leaders across Congress, BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) following which the Congress leader met Mr. Shivakumar at his residence in the wee hours of Sunday.

"Nobody speaks like this about the Vokkaliga community. Mr. Khan is my good friend and I have personally told him a couple of times in the past not to speak like this. Speaking specifically about the Vokkaliga community was not good and he should not continue. Only he has to say if he is speaking with an agenda," Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy told reporters. "He was not like this before."

Also, several senior leaders in the Congress, mostly those who identify themselves as "original Congressmen" also huddled to discuss the issue and are likely to press for action against Mr. Khan, who is now seen as a leader bringing trouble to the party with his off the cuff utterances. While Mr. Khan, who has identified himself in the camp of Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, could be issued notice, no big action is likely since that can send a wrong message to the Muslim community, sources said.

Meanwhile, wading into the Congress's troubled waters, Revenue Minister R. Ashok on Sunday said that the Vokkaliga community is not 'cheap' to be used for political wrongs. "What is happening now between Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Khan is not right. Over the last one week, Vokkaligas are being insulted and Congress should stop this. I am warning those speaking about Vokkaligas to mind their language," he said, adding that the community seers have expressed hurt over the Congress leaders bringing down the community to streets.

The BJP's Vokkaliga leader predicted: "BJP would benefit from the fight between Mr. Shivakumar and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who consider the Vokkaliga community as theirs. Is it possible to become a Chief Minister based on community," he asked.

The BJP general secretary C.T. Ravi said that everyone cannot become Chief Minister.

Taking a dig at Mr. Shivakumar in Ramanagaram, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that it is not enough to aspire to become the Chief Minister, but the community has to be told how the people would be benefitted.

JD(S) to decide on Nikhil's candidature

Nikhil Kumaraswamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) will decide on the candidature of Nikhil Kumaraswamy from Ramanagaram as he has expressed willingness to work for the party to secure more seats, said former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Speaking to reporters in Ramanagaram, near here on Sunday, the JD(S) leader said that Mr. Nikhil had expressed desire to work for the party's candidates in the next election. "Nikhil has expressed the desire to ensure victory of 30 to 40 candidates. He has said that there is a greater need to allocate time to win more seats than becoming a candidate."

The former Chief Minister said: "It is not that I want him to become a legislator. The party and party workers will decide on it in future. The party will also decide on the candidature of Anita Kumaraswamy."

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Clap, don't whistle

Supporters of political personalities often display their admiration and adulation towards their leaders at public functions and programmes by clapping and whistling.

But, at a function organised to release a book on former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's administration in Mysuru on Saturday, Congress leader B.L. Shankar sought to make a distinction between the two gestures.

When Mr. Shankar, during his address at the programme, remarked that Mr. Siddaramaiah had left his stamp on Karnataka politics so firmly that it was not possible to discuss the State's politics without including him in it, a section of the audience broke into clapping and whistling.

But Mr. Shankar was clearly not impressed. He rebuked the whistling fans of the former Chief Minister. "Don't whistle. You can clap if you want. In a political function, we should be serious. Whistling is allowed only in cinema," he said.

Patriotism in a hurry

When you are a government officer and want to please the leaders in power, you tend to disregard all norms. The same is happening in the effort to get national flags ready in a hurry.

The ruling disposition wants flags in lakhs ready for the Amrit Mahotsav and has asked various departments to get them ready. But what about the Flag Code? An office-bearer of Khadi Sangha received a call from a government officer recently who told him authoritatively that he should come to Bengaluru to train people to stitch national flags as the Chief Minister's office wanted it. It took several minutes for the sangha office-bearer to explain to the officer the significance of stitching the national flag, modalities involved and norms to be followed. He had to politely tell him that the best way would be to send some people to the flag production unit to get thorough knowledge of the process.

The officer seemed convinced but till date none has been sent for training. However, flag production has begun with training being provided by self-proclaimed experts providing guidance.

Grabbing credit

With less than a year left for the Assembly elections, BJP MLAs in Dakshina Kannada are busy touring constituencies to lay foundation stones for new developmental works and throwing open the completed works.

On July 18, the State government notified revised water tariff of Mangaluru City

Corporation. The revised water tariff, which comes into effect from August 1, has reduced the price of water for every 20,000 litres from ₹174 to ₹100. Mangaluru City South MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath *(in picture)* was quick to post this development on his Facebook account. He claimed, "I have personally taken the file through different levels in the government and got it notified."

Mr. Kamath's office got into action and circulated images of notification and revised tariff of MCC to reporters. As the news appeared the next day, so did advertisements lauding Mr. Kamath's work. Hoardings appreciating Mr. Kamath's work also came up near prominent traffic junctions in Mangaluru.

LAIQH A. KHAN
GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
RAGHAVA M.

S.R. Mahesh-GTD meet triggers speculations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A meeting between former Ministers G.T. Deve Gowda and S.R. Mahesh in Mysuru has sparked speculations in political circles of the former patching up with the JD (S) leadership.

Mr. Mahesh, a close confidante of former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, met Mr. Gowda at Jaladarshini Guest House in Mysuru on Sunday and extended to him an invitation to inaugurate the Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations scheduled to be held in K.R. Nagar on July 31.

Sources in the JD(S) were optimistic of Mr. Gowda attending the Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations and sharing the dais with Mr. Kumaraswamy. Mr. Gowda, the JD(S) MLA representing Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency, had been nursing a grouse with the party leadership and had publicly expressed his desire to quit and join the Congress or the BJP.

The disgruntled JD(S) leader, who had opened his channels of communication with Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar, had earlier this week told reporters that Mr. Siddaramaiah had not invited him to the Congress. "He did not invite me to join the party. He only told me not to join the BJP," Mr. Gowda told reporters.

Mr. Gowda had offered to join the Congress if the party fields him as well as his son Harish Gowda in the coming Assembly elections from two constituencies in Mysuru district. But, the Congress's "one family one ticket" rule with an exemption only to family members who had five years of prior work in politics had put paid to Mr. Gowda's hopes of joining the party. BJP leaders, however, continued to woo Mr. Gowda.

Mr. Gowda's meeting with Mr. Mahesh, which comes in the backdrop of the disgruntled JD(S) leader's recent remark that Mr. Siddaramaiah had not invited him to join the party, has fuelled speculation over his continuation in the JD(S). Sources in the JD(S), who are hopeful of Mr. Gowda continuing in the party, do not rule out the possibility of renominating Mr. Gowda from Chamundeshwari Assembly constituency while also considering fielding his son Mr. Harish, probably from Hunsur Assembly segment.

Mr. Mahesh's meeting with Mr. Gowda is understood to have the blessings of Mr. Kumaraswamy.

Kharge, Parameshwara discuss plans for Dalit conventions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amidst tension over tussle on the next Chief Minister if Congress is voted to power, two Dalit leaders of the party met here on Sunday to chalk out plans for Dalit conventions planned in the State.

Congress sources said that Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge and former Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara met to discuss the planned conventions at two places in North Karnataka, including Ballari.

Sources said that the Dalit leaders in the party have been tasked to organise the conventions to send a message to the community ahead of the elections to the State Assembly.

Flight of pride

Flying high: Kite-maker and flyer V. Krishnaji Rao, flying a 12-feet kite celebrating Droupadi Murmu, who has been elected as the 15th President of India, in Bengaluru on Sunday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Congress will take a call on Sadashiva panel report by consulting leaders: DKS

We will take everyone into confidence and decide, says KPCC chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday assured the religious leaders of Madiga community that the Congress would take a decision on the A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation after consulting its leaders.

"The Congress set up A.J. Sadashiva Committee when S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister. Though the report was brought before the Cabinet, it could not be implemented immediately," he told reporters on Sunday after meeting the seers from the community near Magadi.

He said that the issue has been discussed with Congress leaders M. Mallikarjun Kharge and G. Parameshwara. "We will take everyone into confidence and a decision would be taken."

On students

The seers also pointed out that most of the children from Madiga community were dropping out of studies after SSLC since parents could not afford continuation of education. The seers also sought help with this regard.

Mr. Shivakumar said: "The seers of the community have assured him of standing by the Congress and they have also placed some demands, which will be discussed in the party forum."

CM's Delhi visit: Will BSY's poll retirement announcement come up for discussion?

Yediyurappa had said his son will contest from Shikaripur in the Assembly elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Though Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has made it clear that no political issues like ministerial expansion are likely to come up for discussion during his ongoing Delhi visit, the BJP State leaders are curious to know if the party Central leadership would discuss veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa's announcement about retirement from poll politics.

Mr. Yediyurappa, who had earlier said that his son B.Y. Vijayendra would contest from Shikaripur in the next Assembly elections in his place, had amended his statement later by saying that it was only a suggestion and that the party high command would take a final call in this regard.

The BJP State leaders are curious to know if the Central leadership would discuss these issues with the Chief Minister during his present trip to Delhi.

Though the ministerial aspirants are not seen lobbying publicly this time, there are expectations of political appointments being made to various boards and corporations as the government has cancelled the previous appointments. In this context, the aspirants are hoping that the Chief Minister would take up discussion at least on political appointments.

On his part, the Chief Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Delhi, said no political discussions had taken place so far with the party high command. He also hinted that no such discussions were likely to take place on Monday too by referring to the important schedule of Droupadi Murmu set to take oath on that day and his appointment with various Central Ministers later.

Cabinet expansion

The Chief Minister skirted from the question on any discussion on Cabinet expansion during his visit.

Indicating that he would discuss the topic if it is raised by the Central leadership, he said: "You have asked this question several times and my answer has remained the same." Government sources said that he is likely to speak to the party leaders after the scheduled meetings since he will be in Delhi on Tuesday also.

Mr. Bommai, who participated in the meeting of BJP Chief Ministers' Council that was presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said it was an exercise to learn the best practices and innovative schemes from other States.

Several of Karnataka's schemes, including upgrading of ITIs, implementation of national education policy, Kisan Samman scheme and measures taken to ensure five trillion economy had been taken up for discussion, he said.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
I, M D NARENDRAN, R/at 2000 Pai Building Road, RM Nagar Bang 16 have changed my name from NARENDRANATH MADURAI DEVARAJ to M D NARENDRAN for all future purposes by affidavit dated on 22/07/2022. Sworn before the Notary SESHAGIRI, Blore-43

I, DEEPAK KUMAR G, R/at B-6m PNS Layout, Bang 43 have changed my name from DANIEL G to DEEPAK KUMAR G for all future purposes by affidavit dated 22/07/2022, Sworn before the Notary SESHAGIRI, Bang-43.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
I, DHANYA VIJAY spouse of VIJAY RAMACHANDRAN born on 23 APR 1980 residing at OMQ 919/4, Officers Enclave, Air Force Station Jalahalli East, Bengaluru-14 have changed my name to DHANYA NAMBIAR vide affidavit dated 20 Jul 22 before Government of Karnataka for all purpose

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUJANI.M, W/o Chandra Shekara, R/at #122, 4th Cross, 3rd Main, Someshwara Nagar, Yelahanka New Town, GKVK Post, Bengaluru-560065, have changed my name from Sujani.M to Sujani vide affidavit dated 22-07-2022 before Notary K.V.Nanjaiah, Bengaluru.

I, KAVYALATHA.G, D/o Ganapathraj Talesara, R/o No.611, Flat No. S2, Ram Sai Daga Springs, 25th Cross, Near Rajeshwari, Kenchenahalli, Bangalore-560098, have changed my name from Kavyalatha.G to Kavya Talesara vide affidavit dated 22-07-2022 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

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Applications are invited for filling up of one post of Chief Financial Officer in ANIIDCO on regular basis in the Level-11. Detailed terms and conditions and application format can be downloaded from website www.andaman.gov.in under vacancy link. The last date of receipt of applications is 26/08/2022 (5:00 PM). For clarification contact Senior Manager (P&A): 03192-231318.
General Manager (P&A), ANIIDCO

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CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Vellore, Yelagiri Campus
PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS
CMC Vellore proposes to establish Retreat Centre in Phases on a 5.0 acres site located in Yelagiri, Athanavur Village, Thirupathur Dist. of Tamil Nadu for the Construction of Retreat Centre with the total built-up area of 20,000 sqft (approx.) with Ground + 1 floor and other related infrastructure developments shall also be carried out alongside.
Prequalification applications are invited from established Engineering Contractors. Interested contractors may obtain prequalification documents from The Engineering Planning Office, Christian Medical College, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore – 632004, TN in person or download from the website www.cmcvellore.ac.in till 7th August 2022 Completed applications supported by prescribed documents should be submitted in a sealed cover to The General Superintendent, Christian Medical College, Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632004, TN.
on or before 08.08.2022.

IN BRIEF

Inter-State extortion gang busted

ANANTAPUR

The district police on Sunday busted a 13-member extortion gang led by Hyderabad-based Sunkara Prasad Naidu and confiscated a country-made 9 mm pistol along with 16 rounds of bullets, an SUV, a sedan, a two-wheeler and ₹6.50 lakh in cash from them on Sunday. Superintendent of Police Fakkeerappa Kaginelli at a press conference said that Sunkara Prasad Naidu, 50, a known criminal, kidnapped Konanki Venkatesh of G. Kottala village in Guntakal mandal on July 20 and demanded ₹1 crore from his family members for his release. Police, however, managed to nab all the kidnappers on Sunday.

'Only ₹23 crore paid to farmers for crop loss'

HYDERABAD

With heavy rains and floods ravaging several parts of Andhra Pradesh, crop loss faced by farmers has become a point of discussion again. Rythu Swarajya Vedika (RSV), an NGO working on farmer's issues, has faulted the government for not fulfilling lofty promises made to farmers about crop loss compensation due to natural calamities.

"In the past few years, the government of Telangana has not distributed any disaster compensation to farmers for crop loss despite the occurrence of heavy rains, floods, hailstorms or large scale pest and disease attack almost every year. The only exception was in 2018, when RSV filed a case in the High Court and the government was forced to distribute input subsidy, but that was only a meagre amount of ₹23 crore," Vissa Kiran Kumar of RSV told *The Hindu*.

Cong. plans to lure 'disgruntled elements'

Party wants Kerala Congress(M) and Loktantrik Janata Dal to return to UDF fold from present LDF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Congress in Kerala is planning to lure "disgruntled elements" in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in a bid to diversify and strengthen the United Democratic Front (UDF) ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

It was part of the 'Mission 24' declaration made at the valedictory event of the two-day *'Navsankalp Chintan Shivir'* that concluded here on Sunday. Though the declaration did not name any political party, it indicated the party's reported efforts to bring back the Kerala Congress (Mani) and the Loktantrik Janata Dal to the UDF fold.

Delegates at the 'Navsankalp Chintan Shivir' organised by the Congress party posing for a group photo after the session concluded in Kozhikode on Sunday. •K. RAGESH

While making the announcement, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran said that political parties that followed Leftist ideology would find it difficult to function within the LDF, which was pursuing extreme right-wing views. The UDF would welcome parties that "cannot sacrifice their political identity."

The declaration targeted "scam-ridden" Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who it said, could not have continued in his post without the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre. The Congress alleged that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)] in Kerala had become vassals of the NDA government at the Centre, as free thought and freedom of expression were being curbed here as well. The BJP and the CPI(M) were found to help each other as they had entered into a "secret package."

The party sought organisational changes. Restructuring of the party committees would be taken up according to the schedule declared by the All India Congress Committee. Training programmes would be launched for the party cadre in all districts.

Internal committees would be formed to address complaints raised by women workers. Election management departments would be set up in the KPCC and district committees.

Flood alert in A.P. as water rises in Godavari

Water level expected to hit first warning level today; situation in Telangana eases after rainfall abates

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
POLAVARAM

With water level in the Godavari on a steady rise, thanks to more spells of rain in the catchments in Andhra Pradesh, a flood alert has been issued to tribal habitations by the river banks.

Water levels in Godavari tributaries had also increased, and the discharge from the Polavaram project was about 6.70 lakh cusecs by Sunday evening, Water Resources Department officials said.

Central Water Commission officials monitoring the river said that the water level in the Godavari, which stood at 45 feet on Saturday, had decreased to 38 feet by Sunday morning.

However, it again increased to 39.9 feet at Bhadrachalam by evening. This level is expected to touch the first warning level by Monday, they added.

Help arrives: Officials supplying relief materials to flood-hit villages in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials of the Revenue, Irrigation, Medical and Health, Integral Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Fisheries, AP Transco and other departments were put on alert in the wake of the rising water levels in the State.

Boats and essential commodities such as drinking water, medicines, milk, generators, diesel and vegetables will be made available in flood-affected villages, said an official on duty.

Temporary relief

In Telangana, however, there has been some relief from heavy rain for the past two days.

Water flow to projects in the Krishna and Godavari basins is fluctuating, with not much rain recorded in the upstream areas of the two river basins in Maharashtra and Karnataka for the past two days.

While the inflow to projects in the Krishna basin is on the decline, it is steady in the Godavari basin, with the forecast of some increase to the major projects.

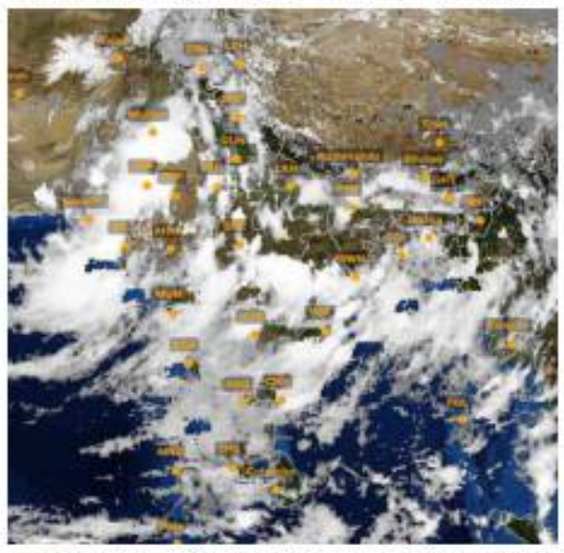
The highest rainfall recorded in the State during the 24-hour period from 8.30 a.m. on Saturday to 8.30 a.m. on Sunday and from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday has been 56.5 mm.

However, the impact of heavy rain on Saturday is being felt on several projects in the Godavari basin.

According to the irrigation authorities, water flow to Singur was about 16,000 cusecs, Nizamsagar 56,500 cusecs, Sriramsagar 82,750 cusecs, Lower Manair 23,850 cusecs, Kaddam 11,500 cusecs and Mid-Manair 9,000 cusecs, with all projects discharging water by maintaining flood cushion.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Coastal and South Interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	10.0	31.1	25.9	Kozhikode	6.0	32.2	24.4
Ahmedabad	79.0	28.6	25.0	Kurnool	2.0	31.2	23.8
Aizawl	16.0	24.8	21.3	Lucknow	2.0	34.2	27.5
Allahabad	–	34.6	25.7	Madurai	5.0	35.0	24.2
Bengaluru	0.3	26.5	20.0	Mangaluru	51.4	28.5	23.1
Bhopal	46.0	25.7	22.8	Mumbai	16.0	29.6	24.5
Bhubaneswar	35.0	30.3	24.2	Mysuru	–	31.4	21.2
Chandigarh	0.5	35.6	26.7	New Delhi	0.2	33.5	25.8
Chennai	–	34.0	26.0	Patna	–	32.8	26.4
Coimbatore	–	32.1	22.8	Port Blair	5.0	31.3	24.2
Dehradun	4.0	34.1	23.7	Puducherry	–	34.2	24.8
Gangtok	1.7	20.4	16.8	Pune	5.0	26.3	21.6
Goa	6.0	30.0	24.7	Raipur	1.8	30.7	24.3
Guwahati	12.0	33.9	25.6	Ranchi	18.0	28.2	23.0
Hubballi	–	22.0	26.0	Shillong	16.0	21.7	17.6
Hyderabad	–	28.2	22.4	Shimla	8.0	22.8	16.4
Imphal	4.0	29.4	21.8	Srinagar	28.0	30.7	20.6
Jaipur	7.0	32.0	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	31.2	24.0
Kochi	6.0	29.8	24.2	Tiruchi	0.3	35.1	26.0
Kohima	–	27.5	17.0	Vijayawada	4.0	33.1	24.4
Kolkata	32.0	29.3	25.3	Visakhapatnam	–	30.6	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	82	18	.10	36	66	
Bengaluru	9	21	.20	70	102	
Chennai	–	21	.75	24	37	
Delhi	6	17	142	69	97	
Hyderabad	22	21	.31	30	53	
Kolkata	12	12	.15	34	52	
Lucknow	7	69	.46	41	53	
Mumbai	25	4	112	18	52	
Pune	–	35	.90	–	–	
Visakhapatnam	15	39	.29	42	84	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kochi, Kerala recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 138 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 12.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ADVERTISEMENT

A year of pro-people governance

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Karnataka headed by chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, completes one year, following B S Yeddyurappa's two-year reign. The government held an official event in Bengaluru to mark the occasion.

If symbolism is anything to go by, Basavaraj Bommai, who wore a saffron silk shawl to the swearing-in ceremony and entered the State Secretariat bowing at the door in the style of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lived to the expectation of the people of Karnataka in the past one year.

Firmly committed to working for the welfare of the people, every decision, he took in the last 365 days is intended to ameliorate the plight of the people. He stood by his words.

"I will take everyone along with me in administration; it is going to be a pro-people government. It is a big responsibility in the given situation. I will strive to work for the welfare of the poor". These were the word given by Basavaraj Bommai after taking over as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. By nature, Basavaraj Bommai strongly believes and breathes what he speaks and sticks to his words in letter and spirit.

PM's appreciation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose Mantra is Progress, appreciated the pro-people policies and schemes of the government headed by Basavaraj Bommai, besides the good governance and development-oriented administration during his recent visit to the State.

After he took over as chief minister, he made many significant pro-people announcements including financial assistance to farmers' children and 'Jana Sewak Yojana'. Jana Sevak Yojana, which offers most of the government services like Khata licence and other at the click of a button helped in reducing corruption by eliminating contact with middlemen and government officials.

In the first 100 days, Bommai has increased the pension for the underprivileged sections of society that indicating his farsightedness. He took the problems plaguing the State head-on immediately after taking over as the chief minister. His focus initially was on addressing the pandemic-Covid-19, which bothered Karnataka along with other parts of the world. Similarly, he visited parts of the state, which are affected by torrential rain and floods. His announcement of compensation came as a hope for the affected people.

Separate secretariat for ST

His immediate decision after taking over as the Chief Minister of Karnataka includes ratification of a decision to set up a separate secretariat to oversee the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and effectively implement all projects and programmes received widespread appreciation from political leaders cutting across party lines.

This decision has a symbolic connotation too. It was Atal Behari Vajpayee, who set a precedent by establishing an exclusive secretariat for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. It was for the first time that an exclusive secretariat for ST Welfare had been set up. Further, this tradition with a special focus and emphasis on the overall development of the community is being carried forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Basavaraj Bommai followed in their footsteps and made a historic announcement on establishing an exclusive secretariat for the welfare of STs, which will go a long way in effective planning and monitoring and implementation of initiatives under the Tribal Sub-Plan and overall development of the community in the State.

His pro-people governance approach is not artificial, but genuine. Through Gangamma Bommai Trust, which he is running for the past 14 years, Basavaraj Bommai is serving the people and wiping the tears of the helpless. This trust is working in the fields of education and health and empowering women.

Chief Minister's announcement of Rs.24000cr development works amid pandemic crisis and doubling of the crop loss compensation for farmers, Increase of widow (Sandhya Suraksha) and physically challenged person, which benefitted about 58 lakh people, shows his commitment to the promise he had made and

reflected the conscience of the government.

Under Mukhyamantri Raitha Vidya Nidhi (Chief Minister Farmers' Education Fund) over 9 lakh students have benefitted under the Scholarship programme announced by the government. Over Rs. 334 crores has been transferred to the student's account directly for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

The incumbent government had faced natural calamities, especially floods, which created more problems for the rural mass in 2021 and the government took all the measures to protect life and property. A total amount of over Rs.4000-cr has been released under various heads under various schemes of both Central and State governments.

Similarly, the government has recently decided to release Rs.5 billion to facilitate the repair and restoration of roads, bridges, and power lines, and for other infrastructure work in the flood-hit areas of the state, based on the report received from the districts on the extent of losses.

One important step of the government headed by Basavaraj Bommai is to make the people stakeholders in the development, not mere beneficiaries. A programme for economic empowerment has been formulated and financial capital for 7500 Stree Shakti groups and New Employment for the youth are part of this grand plan.

The government accorded priority to agriculture by planning to establish a Secondary Agriculture Directorate to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to double farmers' income and Opportunities are being created through dairy farming, sericulture and horticulture.

Amruth Scheme

The government has grand plans for the development of Gram Panchayats, rural development, improving standards of living standards of the rural population, and welfare of backwards and SC/ST communities through Amruth Projects. The government approved projects to develop 287 gowns under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) at a cost of Rs.9327-cr.

Health and Education Sector

Similarly, medical infrastructure has been improved during the second and third waves of Covid. The vaccination campaign has been successfully conducted.

The government has taken revolutionary measures to improve the standard of education, in fact, Karnataka is the first state in the country to implement the New Education Policy. A thorough change is affected in education. Significant progress has been made in the education health and social welfare sectors.

A picture of economic growth

The government steered by Basavaraj Bommai showed Karnataka's might by inking a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two major companies for a total investment of Rs.52000-cr at the World Economic Forum meet at Davos. Karnataka's team led by Basavaraj Bommai had become the star attraction at this coveted economic forum. Along with the two deals signed, other companies have expressed their interest in investing in the state. ReNEW Power-a leading name in the renewable energy sector signed an MoU with the State government to invest Rs.50000cr and it is a milestone in the renewable energy sector of Karnataka. The company intends to set up production units in renewable energy, battery storage and green hydrogen over the next seven years in two phases. In the first phase, Rs.11900cr will be invested in the ongoing projects in the State. In the second phase, the company plans to invest 37,500-crore to set up renewable energy and green hydrogen units over the next five years. The projects spread over the two phases will create employment opportunities for about 30,000 persons.

The Lulu Group International has come forward to invest Rs.2000-crore in Karnataka. The company intends to open four shopping malls and hypermarkets. It is also keen to establish export-oriented food processing units in the state. The projects are expected to create employment opportunities for over 10,000 people.

Basavaraj Bommai's government has envisaged two new policies of the state-New R&D Policy and the New Employment Policy, as part of the government's endeavour to make Karnataka the most attractive investment destination. He has invited corporate honchos to participate in the Global Investors Meet to be held in Bengaluru in November and the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

Irrigation

After decades, it looks like fresh water will flow into the rivers of Karnataka soon and the State will become one of the water-rich regions in the country. Initiatives are taken by the Basavaraj Bommai-headed government, which is enjoying the complete support of the Union Government signalling at the green pastures for Karnataka waters. Rivers including Bhadra, Cauvery and Krishna will have a new lease of life in the days to come, because of the efforts of Basavaraj Bommai, who himself is an irrigation expert.

In the budget presented by chief minister Basavaraj Bommai for 2022-23, Rs. 13,000 crores has been earmarked for various irrigation projects. While Rs.5000 crore has been set aside for the III stages of Upper Bhadra Project (UBP), Rs.3000-crore each has been kept for taking up works on Upper Bhadra Project and Yettinahole Projects. Similarly Rs.1000-crore each has been set aside for Kalasa Bhanduri (Mahadayi) and Tunga Bhadra Projects.

National Project status for UBP

Significantly the High-Powered Steering Committee under the Central Water Commission (CWC) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has granted the national project status to the Upper Bhadra Project recently.

This comes after the Investment Committee of MoJS had cleared the proposal last year in March. This is the first project in the state to get the status and this will change the irrigation scenario of Central Karnataka. The National Project tag will help Karnataka in getting Rs. 12,500 from the Centre and speed up the ambitious irrigation project that will transform central Karnataka from being water scarce to water-rich.

Upper Krishna Project

Similarly, the Ministry of Water Resources is also planning to get National Project status for Upper Krishna Project (UKP). In case of getting this tag, UKP is one of the biggest irrigation projects in the country to get that status.

Rejuvenation of Krishna and Cauvery

The Union Government on March 15, unveiled an Rs.19,000-crore proposal to rejuvenate 13, major river systems, including Cauvery and Krishna.-by large scale plantation of various types of trees in the river basins and maintaining them throughout the year with the active support of state forest departments. The Cauvery component of the rejuvenation scheme outlined by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun is to cost Rs.3069-crore, whereas the proposed budget for the Krishna component would be Rs.2,327-crore. The entire proposal will be funded by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, under the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai making all efforts to get administrative sanctions for Mekedaatu Project.

One State Many Worlds

Tourism in Karnataka with its ambitious plan to create: "One State Many Worlds"- is set to take wings on a new track in Karnataka. The government is leaving no stone turned to strengthen infrastructure at tourist destinations to attract more visitors, besides getting a special position on the world tourism map. In January the Tourism Department received a final nod from the Cabinet for the ambitious ropeway project near Jog Falls (where water from river Sharavathi takes a plunge from a height of 810 feet) in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district. The cabinet also approved a five-star hotel and modern coffee bars in the vicinity to promote tourism. The project is expected to complete at a cost of Rs. 116 crore in the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system.

Project to develop Anubhava Mantapa

Basavaraj Bommai has taken initiative in completing the Anubhava Mantapa project and recently approved the project costing Rs.532cr. The plan is to complete the project in the next three years. The Chief Minister's plan is to build Anubhava Mantapa in an apt form to reflect the social revolution brought about by Basavanna.

Similarly, in a bid to develop Karnataka in a planned manner, Basavaraj Bommai has recently launched numerous development works with a focus on the Bengaluru vision. He wanted to develop Bengaluru in a planned manner with a long-term vision and drew a necessary new plan for that.

With few months left for Basavaraj Bommai to complete all his dream projects, He is working 24X7 to make Karnataka one of the most progressive in terms of economical and human development.

Out of bounds

Unusual or onerous bail conditions ought to have no place in judicial orders

The Supreme Court has struck the right note by voicing its stern disapproval of the tendency among some courts to impose unusual conditions for bail. In the case of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, the Allahabad High Court had granted interim bail in a 'land-grabbing' case, but made regular bail contingent on his fully cooperating with the measuring, walling and barb-wiring of a piece of property measuring 13.842 hectares. The allegation against him is that land vacated by a person who went to Pakistan at the time of Partition had been "grabbed" and a university built on it by a trust headed by him. However, in the interim bail order, the District Magistrate, Rampur, was asked to take possession of the property and, after putting up a boundary wall and barbed wire around it, deliver it to the Custodian, Evacuee/Enemy Property, Mumbai. The top court had taken exception to the proclivity among some judges to venture beyond the confines of a given case and imposing conditions that went beyond what were necessary to ensure the presence or attendance of an accused during the trial. It is fairly well-established that conditions for grant of bail have specific objectives: preventing the accused from fleeing justice and precluding any scope for tampering with evidence or influencing witnesses. These objectives are usually secured by directing them to stay in a particular place and asking them to record their presence before a police officer or a court at a specified frequency. Courts are normally not expected to impose any condition that may impinge on other freedoms of the accused or be too onerous for compliance.

It is not uncommon for bail courts to add some unusual conditions in some cases. Being asked to do a spell of community service, apologising to victims, reading a moral treatise or chapters from Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography are some recent examples. In 2020, the Madhya Pradesh High Court had ordered a man accused of molesting a woman to visit the victim at home and agree to her tying a 'rakhi', a condition that appalled the Supreme Court which denounced the attempt to convert a 'molester' into a 'brother' by judicial mandate. The top court's restatement of its disapproval in yet another case ought to have a salutary effect on courts below. Similarly, unusually harsh oral observations and the inclusion of personal opinions in judicial orders are also not unknown. Examples are legion of judges wading into matters of religion and culture and making controversial remarks. While sharp observations, whether oral or part of detailed orders, can often help in conveying a sense of the judicial conscience, their perfunctory use in a manner that undermines public confidence in the court's impartiality is best avoided. A judicial order can be trenchant and temperate at the same time, and it needs no unusual condition or gratuitous *obiter dictum* to prop up its reasoning.

A fine balance

The 68th National Awards have chosen good films that are also viable

Tamil cinema got a major fillip at the recent 68th National Film Awards, where it bagged top honours. While *Soorarai Pottru* hogged the limelight with multiple accolades, including in the 'Best Actor and Actress' categories, other films such as *Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum* and *Mandela* also fetched their teams honour and acclaim. The selections showcase the sheer variety Tamil cinema has offered to viewers in recent times. While Sudha Kongara's *Soorarai Pottru* – starring Suriya and inspired by the life and times of Air Deccan founder Captain G.R. Gopinath – revolves around a man's desire to succeed and make even the common man fly, Vasanth's *Sivaranjiniyum Innum Sila Pengalum* is a powerful anthology delving into the minds of women across three time periods. Madonne Ashwin's *Mandela* is at another level: an impressive political satire that showcases how deep-seated caste is in the wider society.

The most heartening aspect is that this national acclaim has happened despite these films being released during a tumultuous phase for the film industry – COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdowns. This was acknowledged by the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, who said that although 2020 had been a particularly difficult year for films, the nominations comprised great works. It proves that OTT or theatrical, quality content will stand out. That these three important and relevant films were chosen for top national honours not only gives Tamil cinema pride of place but also encourages aspiring and established filmmakers to explore subjects that have rarely been taken up. But how important are the national awards? While they do not define or lead to success at all times, they do put the spotlight on underrated gems that might have otherwise been overlooked. *Mandela*, for instance, is a classic case: starring Yogi Babu, primarily known for his comic skills, this satire that also spoke about vote bank politics, streamed directly on television and subsequently on an OTT platform, when the world was battling the pandemic. This honour for *Mandela* – in the 'Dialogue Writer' and 'Debut Film of a Director' category – might well be life-changing for its team, giving them the impetus to work on more significant and impactful cinematic material. With multiple release mechanisms opening up thanks to the advent of OTT platforms, the future looks bright for film-makers and actors trying to explore different aspects of storytelling. But critical acclaim alone is not enough to drive the industry forward; commercial viability and box-office collections matter too. This is the balance that every film industry should strive for.

Weighing in on India's investment-led revival

Prospects of sustaining investment recovery are likely to get harder with a depreciating rupee and rising inflation

R. NAGARAJ

Will the investment uptick insulate India?

A fall in industry and agriculture's shares, despite an investment turnaround, could constrict the response to current external exigencies

TABLE: SHARES OF GROSS CAPITAL FORMATION/GDP

Year	Agriculture	Industry	Manufacturing	Services	Transport	Road
	(1)	(2)	(2.1)	(3)	(3.1)	(3.1.1)
2011-12	8.5	38.1	19.2	47.3	8.1	3.7
2014-15	7.7	33.7	17.6	49.0	6.1	1.9
2019-20	6.4	32.5	16.5	52.3	12.9	3.1

Note: Gross fixed investment rate is defined as gross capital formation excluding "valuables" (read gold) and inventories. For this reason, the items (1), (2) and (3) do not add up to 100. | SOURCE: NATIONAL ACCOUNTS STATISTICS, 2021

Lag in investment

Public investment-led economic growth has a respectable academic pedigree, and forms a credible strand of explanation for India's post-Independence economic growth. Here is an illustration. When it was faced with a slowdown after the Asian financial crisis of 1997, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led-National Democratic Alliance government initiated public road building projects. In the form of the Golden Quadrilateral (to link metro cities using a high-quality road network) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (to 'provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations'), these initiatives sowed the seeds of economic revival, culminating in an investment and export-led boom in the 2000s; GDP grew at 8%-9% annually.

In comparison, the investment record during the 2010s has been dismal. However, a recent uptick is evident in the real gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) rate – the fixed investment to GDP ratio (net of inflation). The ratio recovered to 32.5% in 2019-20 from a low of 30.7% in 2015-16 (*figure*).

Ms. Sitaraman has claimed that the Government sustained the investment tempo even during the novel coronavirus pandemic (2020-21 and 2021-22). As in the June edition of the Ministry of Finance's Monthly Economic Review, the fixed investment to GDP ratio was 32% in 2021-22. However, there is need for caution in reading the most recent data, as they are subject to revision. Moreover, the budgetary definition of investment refers to financial investments (which include purchase of existing financial assets, or loans offered to States) and not just capital formation representing an expansion of the productive potential.

On gross capital formation

The National Accounts Statistics provides disaggregation of gross capital formation (GCF) by sectors, type of assets and modes of financing; over 90% of GCF consists of fixed investments. The upturn in the investment rate is welcome, though its productive potential depends on its composition. Contrary to Ms. Sitaraman's contention, the investment distribution has hardly changed over the last decade, with the public sector's share remaining 20%.

The *table* shows the distribution of GCF by agriculture, industry and services (columns 1 to 3); within services transport (column 3.1) and within transport, roads (the single largest expenditure item; column 3.1.1).

Between 2014-15 and 2019-20, the shares of agriculture and industry in fixed capital formation/GDP fell from 7.7% and 33.7% to 6.4% and 32.5%, respectively. Services' share rose to 52.3% in 2019-20 compared to 49% in 2014-15. The rise in the services sector is almost entirely on transport and communications. The share of transport has doubled from 6.1% to 12.9% during the same period. Within transportation, it is mostly roads.

As roads and communications are classic public goods, investment in them is welcome. But over-emphasising it may be lop-sided. For healthy domestic output growth, there is a need for balance between "directly productive investments" (in farms and factories) and infrastructure investments. And this balance was missed. Moreover, the share of agriculture and industry shrank even as the economy's gross capital formation rate trended downwards (see *figure*).

Import dependence grew

The case of manufacturing is distressing. Its share in the investment ratio (column 2.1) fell from 19.2% in 2011-12 to 16.5% in 2019-20. It is not surprising that 'Make in India' failed to take off, import dependence went up, and India became deindustrialised. Import dependence on China is alarming for critical materials such as fertilizers, bulk drugs (active pharmaceutical ingredients or APIs) and capital goods. This became acute during the COVID-19 pandemic, as China imposed export restrictions – prompting the Prime Minister to announce the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.

Instead of boosting investment and domestic technological capabilities, the 'Make in India' campaign frittered away time and resources to raise India's rank in the World Bank's (questionable and contested) Ease of Doing Business Index. India's position did go up, from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019, but it failed to boost industrial investment, let alone foreign investment.

The contribution of foreign capital to financing GCF fell to 2.5% in 2019-20 from 3.8% in 2014-15 (or 11.1% in 2011-12). With declining investment share, industrial output growth rate fell from 13.1% in 2015-16 to a negative 2.4% in 2019-20, as per the National Accounts Statistics.

Public investment

The Finance Minister has claimed that public investment is the pivot of the ongoing investment-led economic revival. The recent upturn in the aggregate fixed capital formation to GDP ratio is positive, though the rate is still lower than its mark in the early 2010s. The claim that the investment revival is public sector driven is not borne out by facts. The jury may still be out on the suggested rise in public investment during the COVID-19 pandemic. The budgetary figures refer to financial investment, not estimates of capital formation, indicating expansion of the economy's productive capacity.

During the 2010s, the investment shares of agriculture and industry fell but rose sharply in services. The percentage share for roads has doubled. The expansion of roads and communications is surely welcome. Considering such a skewed investment priority, the 'Make in India' strategy failed to take off, accentuating India's import dependence, especially on China, leading to deindustrialisation.

The lack of domestic capacity for essential raw industrial materials and capital goods could prove costly. It will likely test India's ability to withstand external economic challenges. With a depreciating currency and rising (imported) inflation, prospects of sustaining investment recovery are likely to get harder. The deficit on balance of payment is already well above policy makers' comfort level of 2.5% of GDP.

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MC12 over, it's 'gains' for the developed world

India, which found itself on the losing side at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, needs to course correct

D. RAVI KANTH

Global trade negotiations are about striking bargains. You lose some and win some. So, who were the main winners and losers in the recently concluded 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)? Even a cursory examination of the outcomes of the meeting leaves us in no doubt that the European Union (EU) and some other developed countries are the overwhelming winners, while India finds itself on the losing side.

The COVID-19 fight

The ministerial outcome on the so-called TRIPS waiver represents the biggest gain for the EU. It is relevant to recall the sequence of events. In October 2020, India and South Africa put forth a proposal seeking to temporarily suspend the protection of intellectual property rights such as patents, copyrights, industrial designs and trade secrets, so that the production of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics could be ramped up to help overcome the crisis and fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal garnered the support of almost 100 countries at the WTO. It also caught the imagination of many Nobel laureates, academicians, civil society organisations, former Prime Ministers of many developed countries, the former Secretary General of the United Nations and even Hollywood celebrities.

The opponents of the proposal, i.e,. Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Switzerland and the United States, found themselves on the wrong side of the global opinion on this issue. In a guileful move, in June-July 2021, the U.S. gave its support to the proposal, but limited it to vaccines. In the process, it bought peace with its domestic constituents, including Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Other developed countries, particularly Germany and the U.K., found themselves at the receiving end of the ire of their civil society organisations and prominent opinion makers.

Advantage EU

Pushed into a corner, the European Union (EU) unleashed its

masterstroke. It made a counter-proposal to undermine the proposal made by India and South Africa. This counter proposal provided a cosmetic simplification in certain procedural aspects of compulsory licensing in patent rules. With the active support of the WTO's Director-General, it also launched a process in December 2021 to reach a compromise. In a completely opaque process, by March 2022, India and South Africa were corralled into accepting the EU's proposal. This formed the basis of the final outcome at the MC12. The ministerial outcome adds very little to what already exists in the WTO rulebook. To make matters worse for developing countries, it adds stringent conditions that are not in the WTO rulebook.

The outcome of the TRIPS waiver has provided a facesaver to the EU, as it can now look in the eye of its civil society organisations and confidently say that it has done its bit to save the world from COVID-19. The final outcome is almost unworkable; a big public relations victory for the EU.

The EU has also scored important gains in two other areas – WTO reform and environment issues. In the name of WTO reform, the EU sought to make fundamental changes to the institutional architecture of the WTO. It also sought to give a formal role to the private sector in WTO processes. And, it has secured both these objectives in the ministerial outcome. The EU has also managed to create a window to pursue negotiations on issues related to trade and environment at the WTO, an issue of concern for many developing countries.

No traction for India

Turning to India, the issue of a permanent solution to public stockholding was identified by the Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, as being its top most priority and nothing more important than it for the world. Despite having the support of more than 80 developing countries, this issue has not found mention anywhere in the ministerial outcome. Instead, the WTO members have succeeded in diverting attention from India's interest by agreeing that food security is multi-dimensional, requiring a comprehensive solution.

India has also failed in many of its other objectives, such as securing the right to raise revenues by taxing electronic transmissions. In the area of fisheries subsidies, it gets two years to have suitable regulatory mechanisms in place to monitor fish catch and reporting. Otherwise, subsidies to traditional fishermen will be prohibited. Although it has secured a temporary reprieve to provide subsidies for enhancing its fishing fleets, it will have to fight an uphill battle on this issue in future negotiations. Further, the outcome on the TRIPS waiver bears no resemblance to its proposals.

Overall, the path ahead for India at the WTO is difficult. India's negotiators need to undertake soul searching to learn lessons from the dynamics at the MC12, and make course corrections.

D. Ravi Kanth is a journalist based in Geneva. He writes for several publications on global trade issues and developments at the World Trade Organization

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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President's advice

It has become a ritual for all outgoing Presidents to address the people about their tenure in office (Inside pages, "Rise above partisan politics: Kovind", July 24). It is unfortunate that it is only at this moment that there is candid talk by the President – i.e., the need for good governance, national integrity, curbing political corruption, ensuring the efficiency of the bureaucracy and justice system, political accountability, etc. It is equally unfortunate that there has hardly been any President of late who red flags issues while in office. Is this the result of political compulsions?

The perception, therefore, is of the Rashtrapathi being a "puppet President" or a "rubber stamp President". The President needs to have and make his or her voice heard.

MURTY K.S.V.S.N.,
China Waltair, Visakhapatnam

■ It has become near customary for the outgoing President to deliver a sermon at the time of laying down office. Of course, the advice, the 'interest of the nation remains our top priority', is to be emulated by all the citizens. One waits to see whether Ms. Droupadi Murmu will make her presence felt and be a voice of sage advice, especially as far as the political class is concerned.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

■ President Ram Nath Kovind has advised MPs about Gandhian methods while exercising their rights of debate and dissent. However, the fact is that there has hardly been proper discussion and debate in Parliament on many important issues.

There have been many moments that are sure to have pained the outgoing President.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ President Kovind has talked about a 'nation first' attitude. Unfortunately, for the political class, it is party politics first and nation second. In a democracy, the fight should be in a dignified way, respecting democratic values, and being answerable to the people. Even members in the House of Elders do not seem to be performing their duties with perfection.

J.P. REDDY,
Nalgonda, Telangana

■ It is true that Parliament is the "Temple of Democracy", where MPs are to reflect the will of the people who elected them. However, in reality, most of our elected representatives seem to be concerned more about their welfare, with not much thought given to the sufferings of the common man. Will the well-meaning advice of the outgoing President have any effect?

N. MAHADEVAN,
Chennai

CJI on the media

It is significant that the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, has been emphatic in calling out the faults in the media and on its running "kangaroo courts" (Inside pages, "Media running kangaroo courts, says CJI Ramana", July 24). Many anchors on television and on prime time television shout their lungs out to make out a case for the powers that be, unabashedly betraying their political leanings. Many watch such biased debates not for enlightenment, but for entertainment.

S. SANJEEVI RAO,
Puducherry

■ The CJI has very rightly said that the media has breached its responsibility, taking democracy two steps backwards. There are many channels that toe the Government line, which is reprehensible.

S.K. KHOSLA,
Chandigarh

■ The CJI has spoken the truth. Most TV channels subject viewers to half-baked debates on sensitive issues in the name of freedom of expression. It is an open secret that many channels, and even some newspapers, are backed by the political class to propagate their agendas. I am afraid that murkier days lie ahead. .

M. SOMASEKHAR PRASAD,
Hyderabad

■ Most news programmes are like court trials. Anchors become judges and stridently provoke the guests appearing on these shows, who turn obstreperous. A transgressing media needs to be kept in check

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

On monkeypox

Monkeypox can be controlled as we have in our arsenal a vaccine developed against smallpox. We should assess the immune status of the population vaccinated against smallpox *vis-à-vis* those unvaccinated.

Dr. V. PURUSHOTHAMAN,
Chennai

Adding digital layers of indignity

Dehumanisation is the likely outcome when humane aspects of governance get outsourced to technologies

RAJENDRAN NARAYANAN

MGNREGA work in Kancheepuram district. • VELANKANNI RAJ B.

The right to live with dignity is a constitutional imperative. However, it rarely manifests in discussions surrounding digital initiatives in governance. Centralised data dashboards – valuable as they are – have become the go-to mode for assessing policies, relegating principles such as human dignity and hardships in accessing rights to its blind spots. Often when technological glitches prevent one from accessing rights, there is a tendency to make the rights-holder feel responsible for it. For instance, I recall being in Rajasthan with Natho Ba, an old MGNREGA worker with severe speech impediment. Despite repeated attempts at a bank to get his e-KYC, he wasn't able to access his own MGNREGA wages because his biometrics wouldn't work. The bank manager said in Hindi, "His fingers are defective". Natho Ba felt humiliated, but was physically unable to voice his humiliation. The bank official was not intentionally insensitive, but had internalised spouting dehumanised technocratic vocabulary. Dehumanisation is the likely outcome when trust and humane aspects of governance get outsourced to opaque technologies.

Two technocratic initiatives

Two recent technocratic initiatives by the Union government underscore these issues again. The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), launched in 1975, is one of the world's largest early childhood care and development programmes. An important component of ICDS is supplementary nutrition for children in the 0 to 6 years age group, pregnant women and lactating mothers. This became a legal entitlement when it became part of the National Food Security Act in 2013. As per this, the rights-holders get hot cooked meals or take-home rations at the local Anganwadis. In 2021, the Union government launched the Poshan Tracker, a centralised platform, to monitor all nutrition initiatives, including ICDS. A recent article by Tapasya of *The Reporters' Collective* highlights some alarming technocratic proposals for ICDS. As per Union government circulars, the updating of Aadhaar of ICDS rights-holders, including children, on the Poshan Tracker is mandatory, and subsequent Central funds for supplementary nutrition to States is being made contingent on this. Nearly three-fourths of children between the ages of 0 to 5 years do not have Aadhaar cards, and Supreme Court orders specify that children cannot be denied their rights for lack of Aadhaar. The government has responded saying that only the Aadhaar of mothers need to be authenticated at Anganwadis. However, it does not provide any data or evidence to show how many "fake" or "ghost" children exist. In our study of Common Service Centres (CSC), even CSC owners reported that biometrics of 42% of the users don't work on the first attempt. This is borne out in other studies too.

As per the recent National Family Health Survey, 36% of children under the age of five are stunted and nearly one-third of children in this age group are underweight. These are pre-pandemic numbers and this would have worsened since the pandemic. In such light, creating new hurdles for children – migrants or otherwise – and young mothers to access food in the name of digitisation appears cruel. It is also unclear what impact such a move will have on the psyche of a child whose mother's Aadhaar authentication fails. For instance, a pensioner whose biometrics failed repeatedly had poignantly remarked, "I feel humiliated that my own body is rejecting my identity." Tackling grave structural issues with technocratic fixes is like putting band aid on a person having a heart attack.

The Union government has issued an order introducing the National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app to record attendance of MGNREGA workers at worksites. As per the order, the app will record "two time-stamped and geo-tagged photographs of the workers in a day" which "increases citizen oversight of the programme besides potentially enabling processing of payments faster." In worksites with 20 or more workers, the app will replace physical attendance registers. A recent article by Chakradhar Buddha and Laavanya Tamang in *The Hindu* and a letter to the government by People's Action for Employment Guarantee articulates the perils of such a move. Here is a short summary. MGNREGA workers could complete their share of work and leave. This gave them time for household work or for other work that gave them supplementary income. The app makes this hard as they have to now stay back at the worksite even after completing their work only to get photographed and geo-tagged. Even from a hard economic standpoint, this move deters workers' contribution to the GDP. The attendance at worksites is taken by Mates who are usually local women in charge of worksite supervision. Now, Mates have to carry smartphones which many don't own. Another ground report by Vijayta Lalwani shows that many Mates are forced to take loans to buy smartphones to use the app. It also demonstrates how a worker has lost more than ₹1,100 of her wages because the app failed to upload her attendance. It has also been a bane for many officials. A district MGNREGA official told me how he is relentlessly getting phone calls regarding glitches on the NMMS app from 6 a.m. The very need for an app, its failures plus other impediments such as unstable network connectivity are likely to discourage women from MGNREGA work. So, the basis for the government's claims of how such an app will assist in "increasing citizen oversight" and in making payments faster are misleading. No doubt that cases of corruption in MGNREGA need to be addressed. But for that, social audits need strengthening instead of making already overburdened women struggle more.

Both these technocratic initiatives point to a digital avatar of panopticon with no evident positives for the rights-holders. The sense of being constantly watched induces fear among people. This normalises and exacerbates the power asymmetry between the rights-holders and the government as the rights-holders begin to internalise and accept this form of coercion. Moreover, the rights-holders will be made to take the blame for technical reasons blocking their participation. This further alienates and erodes the political capacities of rights-holders who usually get addressed in patronising terms such as "beneficiaries." In the process, violations of dignity get buried in the calculus of technocracy and opacity of government actions.

'Seeing' government actions

One thing that routinely strikes me during my frequent visits to parts of rural India is the absence of people wearing spectacles. One rarely sees opticians in most block headquarters, let alone in panchayats. We have made huge technological strides in the country, but have paid scant attention in ensuring that the poor get to see clearly. This extends at a metaphorical level too. While the Indian state has put so much weight behind 'seeing' its people, the majority are unable to see and scrutinise government actions. Democratic dictum suggests that people should be able to 'see' the state clearly, not the other way around. It is the dignity and trust of people at stake otherwise.

Rajendran Narayanan is a faculty member in Azim Premji University, Bangalore and is associated with LibTech India

A shot in the arm for rule of law

The Supreme Court's recent observations on indiscriminate arrests and the reluctance to give bail are pertinent

R.K. RAGHAVAN

In *Satender Kumar Antil v. Central Bureau of Investigation* (2022), the Supreme Court expressed its unhappiness with the current state of India's criminal justice system. The court said there was scant regard for the violation of basic human rights. It was categorical that indiscriminate arrests are indicative of a colonial mindset and create the impression of India being a "police state".

It is not as if the court said something that has not been said before. But the vital message that agencies must be civilised towards both crime suspects and convicts was clear. The court's words were emphatic and practical. The highlights of the court's observations were the accent on safeguarding basic human rights, the emphasis on quickening the pace of trials and the suggestion for a new Bail Act, analogous to an existing U.K. legislation.

The court's role

The gravamen of the court's charge was that law-enforcement agencies make far too many arrests in violation of basic human rights. The fact, however, is that members of the lower judiciary often ask investigating officers why they did not arrest some suspects while arresting others. Often, courts suspect that the police lack integrity in discriminating between the accused. One often wonders whether a Magistrate or judge has the right to question police discretion in the matter, unless there is prima facie injustice to the person arrested. Caustic comments by courts evoke fear in the lower echelons of the police and drive them to take impulsive and questionable action even where arrests are not warranted. Judges sometimes go into the nitty-gritty of an ongoing investigation, which is undesirable if police action has to be balanced.

Arrest and confinement to police custody or judicial custody often smacks of vindictiveness. An average police officer invariably believes that it is only in the rigour of custody that a suspect will cough out the truth. This is unfortunate. It is distressing that the practice of arresting suspects at the drop of a hat remains the style of policing in our country. The need for a cultural change at all levels in the police has never been felt more than now. Justice Krishna Iyer had said in *State of Rajasthan, Jaipur V. Balchand alias Baliay* (1977): "The basic rule is bail, not jail, except where there are circumstances suggestive of fleeing from justice or thwarting the course of justice or creating other troubles in the shape of repeating offences or intimidating witnesses and the like by the petitioner who seeks enlargement on bail from the court." That bail is the rule and jail the exception has been reiterated in several judicial and other forums. This has been violated by the police in cases where they enjoy discretion as well as by the lower courts, some of which are downright rude to those arraigned before them. The Supreme Court's latest order should awaken their conscience and make them understand that when they grant bail, they are not doling out charity but implementing the dictates of law.

The apex court's reference in the *Satender Kumar* case to the Bail Act of the U.K. is appropriate. The essence of that law is that arrests should be rare, and bail provisions should be uncomplicated even to the unlettered citizen. There is a provision for electronic surveillance of those released on bail. This is something novel, but practicable, at least in urban India. The court's recommendation that India should consider a similar enactment is welcome. One cynical view, however, is that existing legal provisions, especially those of the Criminal Procedure Code, are adequate to curb the overzealous practices of law enforcement agencies.

Problem of overcrowding

The Supreme Court also drew attention to the problem of overcrowding of prisons, which has attendant issues such as corruption, crime and hygiene within prisons. An overwhelming majority of the inmates are undertrials. There are two ills here. One, there is an insistence during trial on judicial custody, which is different from what prevails in many countries, especially the U.K., where grant of bail is much more liberal. And two, court proceedings are tortuous as a result of the collusion between principal players in the scene. This situation has been discussed with only a marginal impact.

Ultimately, it all boils down to a change of mindset, which cannot happen unless the political and bureaucratic leadership are convinced of the role of ethics, which is in short supply these days in public life, in shaping and administering the criminal justice system. The inescapable impression of a majority of Indians is that we have a system that is arbitrary and cruel and this must change.

R.K. Raghavan is a former CBI Director and currently Professor of Criminal Justice and Policing at the Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

STATE OF PLAY

Politics over Polavaram

It is time for the Central government to constitute a team of experts to examine concerns

M RAJEEV

The inundation of Bhadrachalam town due to recent floods in the Godavari has thrust the Polavaram project into the limelight again. The issue has led to a war of words between the two Telugu States with Telangana Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar claiming that the Andhra Pradesh government's move to increase the height of the project by three metres led to the floods and posed a grave threat to areas upstream in Telangana and A.P. Minister Ambati Rambabu asserting that the project had been cleared by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and was being constructed by the Central government with the A.P. government only implementing it.

The Polavaram project has been a bone of contention between the two States since the formation of Telangana. The then A.P. government succeeded in getting seven mandals of old Khammam district merged with A.P. with the Centre enacting the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill in 2014, because these mandals were in the submergence area of the project and the government could take relief and rehabilitation measures when necessary. Telangana alleged that the project works were expedited after it was declared a national project in line with the Act and that serious concerns of the riparian States were ignored.

The Telangana government has insisted on taking up new studies relating to the impact of the backwaters as well as the environmental impact the project would have on areas upstream. The government's demand is not inappropriate. The environmental assessment of the Central government in 2005 had considered 36 lakh cusecs as the probable maximum flood. This was then changed to 50 lakh cusecs, and the CWC asked the A.P. government to design spillways accordingly.

The change in the design of spillways to discharge 50 lakh cusecs has compounded the problem. The Telangana government contended that the fundamental principles and assumptions forming the basis of the agreement between Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and then united A.P. on the design and flood operation schedule of Polavaram had been replaced by new parameters and this was a cause of concern. "The studies are conducted for 36 lakh cusecs and not for 50 lakh cusecs which can cause heavy submergence and disaster upstream," the State said in a presentation made to the Parliamentary Standing Committee. It said no studies had been carried out for successive floods in Godavari. The extent of submergence due to design flood and the backwater effect along the Kinnerasani, Sabari and the Sileru limbs (flowing through Chhattisgarh and Odisha) had not been considered by the CWC by estimating flood contributions from the two tributaries separately in conjunction with simultaneous floods likely to occur in Godavari. "If any inflow more than 20 lakh cusecs occurs before the recession of the earlier flood, it will have more impact on the backwater level compared to normal flood condition," the State said to the Standing Committee.

Telangana has therefore said it is imperative for central agencies to study the backwater levels with revised probable maximum flood and corresponding backwater levels. It contended that the environment clearance given by the Union Ministry of Environment on October 25, 2005 was valid and operative only up to October 24, 2010 and so, a fresh assessment was required.

As the issue has the potential to snowball into a major controversy between the two States where governments are focusing on development after overcoming bifurcation hassles, it is time for the Central government to constitute a team of experts to examine the concerns of the riparian States.

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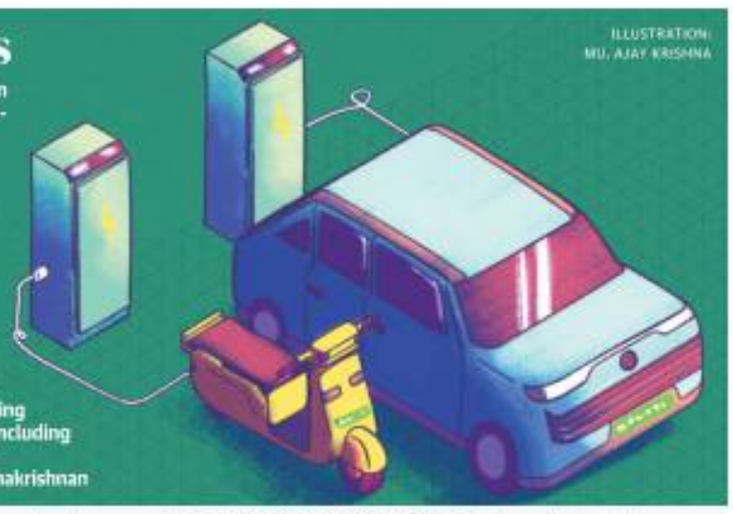
DATA POINT

Share of e-vehicles

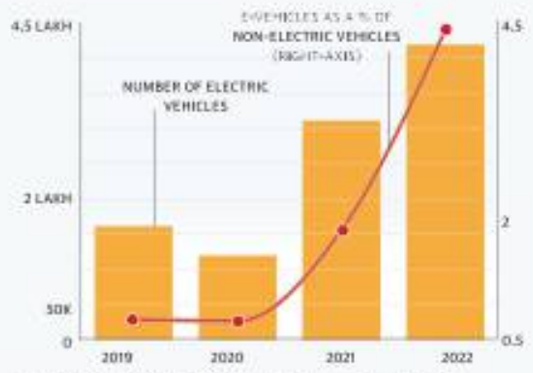
There are about 13.34 lakh electric vehicles in India. More than 50% of them are e-autos/e-rickshaws. In comparison, there are 27.81 crore registered non-electric vehicles. While the ratio appears small, it is slowly improving. In FY19, only 0.76% of the total vehicle registrations were electric. The ratio improved to over 4% in FY22. The number of electric vehicles for every 1 lakh non-electric ones crossed the 1,000 mark only in Delhi, Assam and Tripura. There were more than five EV-charging outlets for every 100 petrol pumps only in Delhi, Goa and Chandigarh. The growth of electric vehicles depends on the availability of charging stations and addressing concerns of safety, including recalling models of e-bikes that caught fire.

By Rebecca Rose Varghese and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

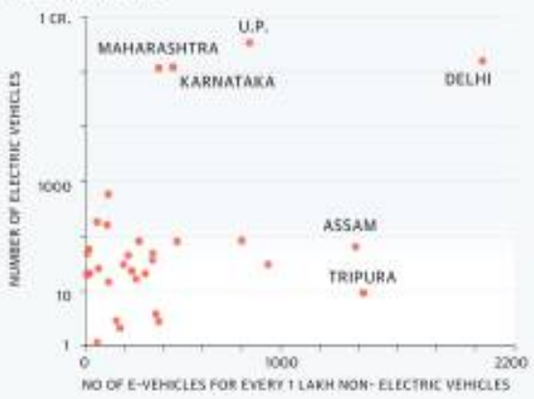
ILLUSTRATION: MU. AJAY KRISHNA



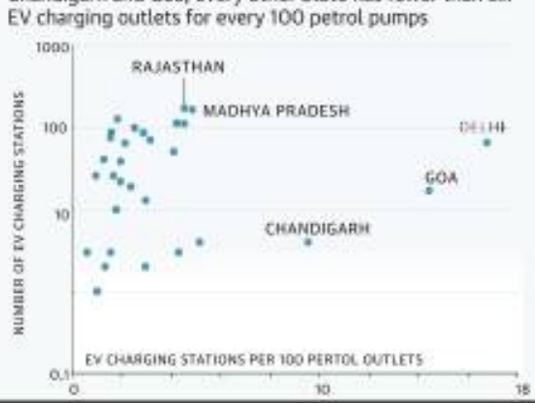
1 ELECTRIC VS. NON-ELECTRIC | The graph shows the number of new electric vehicles registered each year, on the left axis. The number of electric vehicles registered as a % of non-electric vehicles registered is plotted on the right axis. The number and the ratio have recorded slow increases over the years



2 STATE-WISE VEHICLES | The graph plots the number of electric vehicles State-wise as on July 14, 2022, on the vertical axis. The number of electric vehicles for every 1 lakh non-electric vehicles is plotted on the horizontal axis. U.P., Delhi, Karnataka and Maharashtra have more electric vehicles compared to other States and UTs. However, Delhi, Assam and Tripura have better penetration with >1,000 electric vehicles for every 1 lakh non-electric ones



3 STATE-WISE STATIONS | The graph plots the number of retail outlets with EV charging facilities State-wise as on January 1, 2022, on the vertical axis. The number of retail outlets with EV charging stations for every 100 retail outlets which offer petrol/diesel is plotted on the horizontal axis. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have more EV charging stations compared to other States/ UTs. However, except Delhi, Chandigarh and Goa, every other State has fewer than six EV charging outlets for every 100 petrol pumps



4 CALLING BACK | The graph shows the number of electric vehicles recalled by manufacturers in April 2022. According to a Lok Sabha reply, based on the information of fire incidents available, MoRTH* has issued a show cause notice to the electric scooter manufacturers concerned

* MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS | SOURCE: LOK SABHA

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1972

Ratification of Simla agreement

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had talks to-day with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, about the ratification of the Simla agreement and the steps to be taken for commencing the processes of implementation for establishing durable peace in the sub-continent. The Government had earlier decided to await Mr. Swaran Singh's return from his foreign tour before seeking Cabinet approval for the ratification of the agreement. Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry has worked out the plans for withdrawal of forces from the occupied territories within the prescribed 30-day time limit after the Simla agreement has come into force. The Indian and Pakistan commanders will meet soon to settle the time-table for phased withdrawals in accordance with agreed procedures. The Indian and foreign press will be given facilities to report the operation in different sectors in the West. The Government is watching the Jan Sangh moves to stage a dharna in these occupied territories as a protest against the Simla agreement. It is not clear whether the Jan Sangh volunteers will be allowed to enter these areas under military control for conducting a political agitation against the restoration of the territories to Pakistan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1922

A conciliation move

The solution with regard to jute mills strikes is unchanged. A meeting of the employees of Titaghur jute mills was held yesterday at Titaghur. Mr. K.C. Rai Chaudhri, Labour Member, Bengal Legislative Council, presided. He said that he was sorry that nearly 25,000 mill hands belonging to Khardah and Titaghur mills were sitting idle and that there was no organisation or union among them to carry on negotiations with their European employers before and after the strike. From private enquiries he had made he had arrived at the conclusion that no hidden hand had anything to do with the strikes in Khardah and Titaghur mills. The mill hands were justified in demanding the same increment in wages as had been sanctioned by the management at Wellington Mills at Bishra. He advised the men to confer with strikers of Khardah mills to form a small Committee or a panch of five trustworthy men and approach the government through him or the Sub-Divisional officer of Barrackpore for a conciliation board.

FROM PAGE ONE

High alert as Delhi reports monkeypox

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted that the first case of monkeypox has been detected in Delhi. The patient is stable and recovering. "The situation is under control. We have made a separate isolation ward at LNJP [Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital]," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"Monkeypox has been spreading rapidly and to many countries that have not seen it before, which is a matter of great concern. It is possible to curtail further spread of the disease with focused efforts among at-risk population," Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said.

Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, four cases of monkeypox have been reported, three from India and one from Thailand. The cases in India are among nationals who returned home from the Middle East, while in Thailand, a foreign national living in the country has tested positive for monkeypox. She said, "Importantly, our focused efforts and measures should be sensitive, devoid of stigma or discrimination." The decision to term monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) was announced by Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO, on July 23, a day after he convened yet another meeting of the International Health Regulations (IHR) emergency committee to review the multi-country outbreak.

"Though the risk of monkeypox globally and in the region is moderate, the potential of its further international spread is real. We need to stay alert and prepared to roll out intense response to curtail further spread of monkeypox," Dr. Khetrapal Singh said.

Since the start of the outbreak, the WHO has been supporting countries in assessing risk, and initiating public health measures, while also building and facilitating testing capacities in the region. Engaging and protecting the affected communities; intensifying surveillance and public health measures; strengthening clinical management and infection prevention and control in hospitals and clinics; and accelerating research into the use of vaccines, therapeutics, are among the key measures that need to be scaled-up, she said.

Monkeypox virus is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact.

Ram Nath Kovind highlights climate crisis

"I would urge you all to spend some time every day going over Gandhi-*ji*'s thoughts and words," he said.

Mr. Kovind said some of the most unforgettable parts of his Presidency for him had been to visit his ancestral village near Kanpur, and reconnect with and take blessings of the elderly teachers there.

"To think of occupying any Constitutional post or even to conceive of what it meant was quite beyond the scope of my imagination as a child or of those around me, but our democracy has given ways and means for people to find ways of contributing to serve the country," he said. He urged young people to stay connected to their roots in villages and towns and their teachers and elders.

He remembered the final speech of B.R. Ambedkar before the Constitution was adopted. He pointed out that Dr. Ambedkar had said that mere political democracy was not enough, that social democracy, embodied in the phrases liberty, equality and fraternity, should underlie political democracy. "These values must not be mistaken for abstractions," he said.

He praised the New Education Policy as making it possible for young Indians to connect with their heritage and also find their feet in the 21st Century.

He signed off his speech with a strong appeal to take the climate crisis seriously. "Mother Mature is in deep agony and the climate crisis can endanger the very future of this planet. We must take care of our environment, our land, air and water, for the sake of our children. In our daily lives we must be more careful to protect our trees, rivers, seas and mountains as well as all other living beings. As the first citizen, if I have to give one advice to my fellow citizens, it is this," he said.

Wind power rates may bottom out

Centre to stop 'reverse auctions'

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Last week, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said it would be doing away with the practice of reverse auctions – when companies bid to offer the lowest price – while awarding contracts for setting up wind-energy projects. However, wind industry experts say this alone will not necessarily improve the sector's fortunes.

India has committed to installing 60,000 MW of wind power projects by 2022, but has met only two-thirds of the target.

"An in-principle decision has been taken. There were complaints from the industry that e-reverse auctions are leading to tariffs being artificially lowered leading to unhealthy competition," Indu Shekhar Chakravarty, Secretary, MNRE, said at a conference organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

While reverse auctions were the norm for all renewable energy projects, including solar and wind projects since 2015, the government's change of stance signals that the rock-bottom prices associated with clean energy projects – per unit solar power costs have fallen to ₹2.40 a unit – do not reflect the true costs of renewable energy.

There is limited availability of sites favourable for cost-efficient wind projects.

The cost of large tracts of land required to install wind turbines is among the reasons cited for the dwindling health of the sector.

The other reasons are limited availability of prime sites that are favourable for cost-efficient wind power projects and the poor financial health of State electricity distribution companies.

Smriti sends notice to Congress leaders

Demands apology from Pawan Khera, Jairam Ramesh, Netta D'Souza over allegation against daughter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress and its leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'Souza were on Sunday the recipients of a legal notice issued by Union Minister Smriti Irani, demanding an apology for the "baseless and false allegations" directed at her and her daughter, Zoish Irani.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Ms. Irani had announced that she would be sending the notice, as the Congress came out with allegations about her 18-year-old daughter, Zoish Irani, running a restaurant in Goa for which a bar licence was acquired illegally.

In the absence of "an unconditional and unequivocal apology" and withdrawal of allegations, the notice warned the recipients of civil and criminal proceedings.

> **If they do not tender an unconditional and unequivocal apology and withdraw their allegations, Irani will initiate civil and criminal proceedings against them**
>
> STATEMENT IN SMRITI IRANI'S LEGAL NOTICE TO CONGRESS

'No licence'

Ms. Zoish Irani has never applied for any licence for "running" any bar or for any business enterprise, it said, asserting that she has not been served with any show-cause notice from the Excise Department in Goa as alleged by the Congress leaders, the notice said. These allegations have been made with the knowledge of their falsity or at least in careless disregard of the truth, the legal notice from Ms. Irani added.

'False allegations'

"The false allegations were intended to hurt the reputation of our client as a Union Minister and a person in public life, and also to outrage her modesty and that of her daughter," the notice said, reading further that "the Congress leaders stooped to a new low, morally and ethically, by attacking Ms. Irani's young daughter who is in her first year at university and at the threshold of a new chapter of her life, pursuing her professional aspirations. These aspirations of our client's (Ms. Irani) daughter are sought to be cruelly marred, jeopardised and prejudiced by the addressees (the Congress leaders) through their inhumane, insensitive and false narratives as collateral damage."

"The insistence of addressees to invoke value systems of our client with a reference to her *sanskar* is an effort to make our client and her young daughter social outcasts by proclaiming that by the act of 'running' a bar our client and her young daughter are women of disrepute," the notice stated.

Youth Congress protest

The Congress had on Saturday demanded Ms. Irani's sacking, alleging her daughter was running an illegal bar in Goa, but the Minister had claimed the "malicious" charge was made at the Gandhi family's behest due to her vocal stand in the *National Herald* newspaper case and vowed to fight back.

The workers of the Goa Youth Congress on Sunday staged a protest outside the Goa restaurant, which the Congress claimed is owned by Ms. Irani's daughter, Zoish Irani.

PDP chief slams forcible fund collection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

An auto-rickshaw, making an announcement of official action to be taken against those shopkeepers who did not pay ₹20 for the *Har Ghar Tiranga* campaign in south Kashmir's Anantnag, evoked sharp criticism from former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday.

Reacting sharply to the Anantnag administration's move, Ms. Mufti said, "The manner in which J&K admin is forcing students, shopkeepers and employees to pay for the National Flag to hoist it, is as if Kashmir is an enemy territory that needs to be captured. Patriotism comes naturally and can't be imposed."

Explosion in Bihar illegal firecracker unit kills five

Four-year-old child among victims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SARAN

At least five people, including a four-year-old child and a woman, were killed and four others injured, in a massive explosion, in an illegal firecracker unit in Saran district of Bihar on Sunday, the police said.

The explosion was so powerful that the three-storey building in Khodaibag Bazar from which it was operating collapsed, Saran Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar told reporters.

"Five people, including a four-year-old child and a woman, died on the spot. Four others have been injured," he said.

The owner of the house had been identified as Shabir Hussain and he was allegedly running the illegal firecracker unit, the officer added.

Search operation on

"Operations are under way to rescue trapped persons, if any, from under the debris. We are trying to ascertain the identity of the deceased. Forensic experts have been asked to come from Patna. Further investigation is under way," Mr. Kumar said.

'Apologise for remarks on Sonia'

Cong. letter to Modi and Nadda warns of defamation suit for indecent language

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief J.P. Nadda tender an apology over BJP spokesperson Prem Shukla's use of "indecent language" for Congress president Sonia Gandhi. The party said it would file a defamation suit if this were to happen again.

In the letter to Mr. Nadda, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh registered the party's objection to the "abusive and indecent" language used by Mr. Shukla during a discussion on a national news channel on July 23. "Using abusive words for the leaders of the Opposition shows the anti-women thinking of the BJP. Due to such objectionable remarks, the level of politics of the country is going down," Mr. Ramesh said.

> **Using abusive words for the leaders of the Opposition shows the anti-women thinking of the BJP. Due to such objectionable remarks, the level of politics of the country is going down**
>
> JAIRAM RAMESH, Congress spokesperson

"Respect for women has been a great tradition of India since Vedic times and, therefore, decency in politics and respectful behaviour towards women is naturally expected from the ruling BJP, but the party has repeatedly disappointed us with its language and behaviour," he had written.

Appeal to Modi

"Our appeal to Prime Minister Modi ji and you is to apologise to the women of the country for the shameful and indecent rhetoric of your party leaders, as well as ask your spokespersons and leaders not to hurt the dignity of politics and refrain from abusive language," he said. "The repetition of inappropriate language for our President or any other leader will force us to take legal steps such as a defamation suit," Mr. Ramesh warned.

'J&K will always be integral part of India'

Rajnath Singh says dilution of Article 370 brought hope to aspirations of people

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said Jammu and Kashmir would always be an integral part of India and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan were illegally occupied by Pakistan, while describing Article 370 as "an artificial barrier that stands removed".

"Jammu and Kashmir will always be an integral part of India and the government is ensuring that the Union Territory, like the rest of the country, touches newer heights of progress. Article 370 was an artificial legal barrier. Its abrogation brought a new dawn of hope to the dreams and aspirations of the people, especially the youth," said Mr. Singh, who was speaking on the occasion of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' in Jammu.

Honouring the heroes: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitating family members of a fallen hero on Sunday. • PTI

He said Pakistan, after tasting defeats in direct wars of 1965 and 1971, adopted the path of proxy war.

"For over two decades, it has tried to 'bleed India with a thousand cuts'. But, time and again, our brave soldiers have shown that no one can disturb the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India," the Defence Minister said.

He said India wanted friendship with our neighbour "but don't know why Pakistan is behaving differently".

"Pakistan's behaviour is totally different. During the Kargil war, Pakistani intruders had sneaked into Indian territory, but when Indian soldiers launched their attack, Pakistani soldiers and intruders had to flee from Indian posts," Mr. Singh said.

Terming PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan "illegally occupied by Pakistan", Mr. Singh said, "A resolution to free it has been unanimously passed in Parliament of India," he added

He said the entire area of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh became the main war theatre during the 1948, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999 wars.

"Enemies tried to cast an evil eye, but those plans were thwarted by the gallant Indian soldiers," he said.

"The sole aim of the government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is to safeguard the interests of the nation and it has taken a series of steps to develop a self-reliant defence ecosystem that provides indigenous state-of-the-art weapons and equipment to the armed forces to fight all kinds of future wars," Mr. Singh said.

Police on the hunt for Meghalaya BJP leader

Marak is accused of running 'brothel'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya police have intensified the search for a State BJP leader accused of turning his farmhouse on the outskirts of Tura town into a brothel.

Bernard R. Marak, vice-president of the BJP's Meghalaya unit, has been absconding since the police raided his 30-room farmhouse on July 22 evening. Apart from picking up 73 youth, both male and female – many of them in a "compromising position" – and five minors, the police seized about 500 packets of unused contraceptives, 168 litres of liquor, and other items that they said indicated the place was being run as a brothel.

Many people associated

"He [Marak] is probably in Delhi. He has claimed in a video that he is in the national capital. We are trying to locate and arrest him soon," Vivekanand Singh Rathore, Superintendent of Police of West Garo Hills district, told *The Hindu* on Sunday. He said many more people associated with Mr. Marak were likely to be arrested in the case registered at the Tura Women's Police Station under relevant Sections of the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act of 1956.

Mr. Marak, a former extremist leader who led the now-disbanded A'chik National Volunteer Force (B), had issued a statement after the raid accusing Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma of misusing the government machinery to settle personal scores with him. He also claimed the government went after him for exposing graft.

In a later statement he said, "I am not absconding but I am trying to save myself from being shot in an encounter." He also said the Chief Minister entrusted the plan to execute him to police officers who had made several attempts on his life almost a decade ago

Mr. Rathore said the five children rescued from the farmhouse were found locked inside dingy cabin-like unhygienic rooms. All were in a state of shock and unable to speak properly.

"They were handed over to the district child protection officer for safe custody and further necessary action according to law," he said.

The raid was linked to the disappearance of a minor girl on February 28. The girl was traced the following day and an investigation revealed she was sexually abused several times for more than a week. A case was accordingly registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. Among the items the police seized from the farmhouse were a crossbow with telescope, 44 crossbow arrows, and a knife and a machete, both with wooden handles. Leaders of the State BJP unit declined to comment on the case against Mr. Marak.

Infosys Q1 net profit up 3.2%, expenses 29%

Deal pipeline strong, will hire 50,000 freshers this fiscal, says CEO Salil Parekh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based IT services company Infosys on Sunday ported a 3.2% increase in net profit to ₹5,360 crore for the first quarter ended June.

However, the figures reflected a 5.7% decline sequentially from the previous quarter ended March.

Total revenue rose 23.6% to ₹34,470 crore.

Revenue growth was broad-based across verticals with each business growing in double digits and several growing more than 25%, the company said in a statement.

Digital business

Digital business accounted for 61% of overall revenues, growing at 37.5%. However, supply-side challenges, higher travel costs and rising wages dented margins.

Overall expenses surged more than 29%, while operating margins for the June quarter came in at 20.1%, down 3.6% year-on-year.

Salil Parekh, CEO and MD of Infosys

"We reported a strong Q1 amidst an uncertain economic environment," said CEO and MD Salil Parekh in a virtual media conference.

"We continue to gain market share and see a significant pipeline driven by our Cobalt cloud capabilities and differentiated digital value proposition," he added.

Infosys raised its expectation for revenue growth in the current fiscal year to 14%-16% from the earlier projected 13%-15%, on strong demand outlook.

Infosys saw its large deal signings dropping about 35%, while gross addition of clients during the quarter dropped to 106 from 113 a year earlier.

"Our pipeline for larger deals is higher than what we had 3-6 months ago. Based on our current visibility, we are seeing good volumes in the pipeline and the size of large deals also overall remains strong. The outlook for large deals looks good for the U.S. and European markets, and also Australia, while we are expanding in Japan and Singapore. All these have given us confidence, at this moment, to raise our guidance," Mr. Parekh added.

The company hired 21,171 people in the quarter and has plans to recruit 50,000 freshers during the fiscal, the technology services firm said.

The quarter saw attrition rising to 28.4% on a last-12-month basis, from 27.7% in the immediately previous quarter.

Chief Financial Officer Nilanjan Roy said: "We are fuelling the strong growth momentum with strategic investments in talent through hiring and competitive compensation revisions. While this will impact margins in the immediate term, it is expected to reduce attrition levels, and positions us well for future growth."

Infosys's larger IT rival Tata Consultancy Services and also smaller rivals such as HCL Technologies and Wipro have seen their margins erode as they battle a higher sector-wide talent churn and try to retain employees.

The April-June quarterly earnings reports have started on a weaker note for Indian IT services companies, with TCS, HCL Technologies and Wipro also missing their first-quarter profit estimates.

(With Reuters inputs)

APPEAL

Ms. Thiya Sri is 7 years old suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Her family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.8,00,000/-** to undergo Chemotherapy for 2 years at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. She needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0018018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

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WWS

Droupadi Murmu to take oath as India's 15th President today

She is the youngest and the first tribal person to occupy the top constitutional post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

President-elect Droupadi Murmu will take the oath of office of the highest constitutional post of the country on Monday, followed by a 21-gun salute.

The Union Home Ministry said the ceremony will be held at the Central Hall of Parliament at 10.15 a.m.. Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana will administer the oath of office to her.

The President-elect will take the oath of office followed by a 21-gun salute, the Ministry said.

The President will then deliver an address.

Before the ceremony, the outgoing President, Ram Nath Kovind, and the President-elect will arrive in Parliament in a ceremonial procession.

Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, heads of diplomatic missions, MPs and principal civil and military officers of the government will attend the ceremony.

President Ram Nath Kovind with President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday • PTI

On the conclusion of the ceremony in the Central Hall, the President will leave for the Rashtrapati Bhavan where an inter-services guard of honour will be given to her in the forecourt and courtesies will be extended to the outgoing President.

Mr. Kovind on Sunday hosted dinner for the President-elect, Mr. Naidu, Mr. Modi and the Union Council of Ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

Scripting history

Ms. Murmu, 64, scripted history on Thursday after defeating the Opposition Presidential candidate, Yashwant Sinha, in a one-sided contest. She would become India's first tribal President.

Ms. Murmu received over 64% valid votes of MPs and MLAs, comprising the electoral college, to succeed Mr. Kovind and become the country's 15th President.

She will be the first President to be born after Independence and is the youngest to occupy the top post. She is also the second woman to become the President.

Ms. Murmu will also become the 10th successive President to take oath on July 25 since 1977.

Take Bengal Minister to AIIMS: HC

Partha was arrested by the ED in connection with teacher recruitment scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Sunday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to take the arrested West Bengal Industries and Commerce Minister Partha Chatterjee by air ambulance to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar early on Monday.

Justice Bibek Chaudhuri said the Minister, arrested by the ED in connection with the West Bengal School Service Commission recruitment scam, would be accompanied by a doctor of SSKM Super-specialty Hospital and an advocate to the AIIMS.

The ED on Sunday approached the High Court challenging a city court order allowing Mr. Chatterjee to stay at the State-run SSKM Hospital.

The court order said, "The investigating agency is directed to take the accused by air ambulance to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar in the early morning on July 25. The accused shall be taken to the NSC Bose Airport, Calcutta by an ambulance of the SSKM Super-specialty Hospital. He will be accompanied by a doctor of the SSKM Super-specialty Hospital and an advocate for the accused."

Up in arms: Congress workers staging a protest in Nadia district on Sunday demanding action against Partha Chatterjee. • PTI

The II-page order directed the AIIMS authority to have the accused examined by a team of doctors and prepare a report and hand over "copies of the same to the investigating officer, the Medical Officer of SSKM Super-speciality Hospital, and the advocate for the accused by 3 p.m. on Monday."

The High Court directed that the investigating officer should forward a soft copy of the medical report to his counterpart in Kolkata who, in turn, shall produce it before the special judge under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Mr. Chatterjee has been remanded in ED custody till July 25.

Earlier, in the High Court, the ED counsel argued that the Minister can be taken to a doctor but not a doctor of his choice. The agency offered that Mr. Chatterjee be taken to Delhi or Bhubaneswar for treatment. Maintaining that the Minister fell ill soon after the arrest, the Central agency said SSKM Hospital was turning out to be a safe haven for those arrested.

During the day, Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of the Minister, was produced before a city court. Her bail plea was rejected and she will be in the ED custody till Monday. During the raids on Friday, the agency had recovered ₹21.90 crore from her residence.

The Trinamool Congress leadership sought a time-bound investigation into Mr. Chatterjee's arrest.

The party had, however, distanced itself from the Minister and said it would not interfere politically if any leader had done anything wrong. In the past, the party had defended the leaders whose names had figured in the Saradha chit fund scam and Narada tapes.

'Ensure complete coverage of schemes'

Modi addresses CMs of BJP-led States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday told Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led States to ensure saturation-level coverage of welfare schemes and boost the business environment in the country. The meeting was held at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi.

Narendra Modi arriving to attend the meeting in New Delhi. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

It was attended by the Chief Ministers and the Deputy Chief Ministers of 18 States, and BJP president J.P. Nadda.

During the meeting, Mr. Modi emphasised better implementation of some key schemes and initiatives of the government such as Gati Shakti, Har Ghar Jal, Svamitva, DBT implementation and others, the BJP said in a statement. "Prime Minister Modi stressed the need to ensure saturation-level coverage of all key schemes and said that BJP-ruled States should take a lead towards this," the party added.

Emphasising the need to ensure ease of doing business, Mr. Modi spoke about several initiatives taken by his government. "He encouraged the States to take steps towards further boosting the business environment in the country," the statement said.

Importance to sports

Mr. Modi also asked the Chief Ministers to ensure that their States accord due importance to sports and ensure availability of the best facilities to encourage participation and engagement of youngsters in large numbers.

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and Vinay Sahasrabuddhe were present in the meeting. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma were among those who attended the meeting.

PM to pay tribute to Harmohan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the event marking the 10th death anniversary of Chaudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav on Monday in Kanpur, via video conference.

An official release said that the Prime Minister's participation is in recognition of the great contribution of the late leader to farmers, backward classes and other sections of society.

A two-time Rajya Sabha member, Yadav was a towering figure and leader of the community.

A close friend of Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, Yadav remained active in Uttar Pradesh politics and social life until his death in 2012.

The event is being seen as an attempt by the ruling party to make inroads into Samajwadi Party bastion, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha poll.

In November 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind addressed the birth centenary celebrations of Yadav in his native village, Meherban Singh Ka Purva.

Yadav is also remembered for giving shelter to his Sikh neighbours during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Kanpur.

Shinde-Fadnavis Cabinet expansion still in limbo

It is likely to be done before Monsoon Session of Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

After more than three weeks of a two-man government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the date of the expansion of the new Maharashtra Cabinet remains mired in uncertainty.

With Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis due for another visit to New Delhi to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Droupadi Murmu on July 25, sources say that another meeting with the BJP top brass regarding the impending Cabinet expansion in Maharashtra is likely to happen.

Both of them have been scurrying back and forth between Mumbai and Delhi since the toppling of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, having visited the capital no less than five times since taking power late last month.

All MLAs in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and particularly the rebel Shiv Sena camp of 40 legislators led by Mr. Shinde, are waiting in keen anticipation for the date of the expansion.

With several of the breakaway MLAs like Dada Bhuse, Uday Samant, Abdul Sattar, Shamburaj Desai and others being Ministers in the erstwhile tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray, the Sena rebel faction – despite emphatically attributing the motive behind their revolt to ideals and not lure of position – is eagerly eyeing the portfolio allocation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis during a recent meeting in New Delhi. • PTI

Besides Mr. Shinde, the rebel faction of 40 Sena MLAs has eight Ministers – four Cabinet Ministers and four Ministers of State – from the erstwhile MVA regime which they helped topple.

It is expected that all these Ministers will be eyeing berths in the new government.

While the MVA of the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress had sworn-in seven Ministers in the first 40 days of its inception in late 2019, the Sena (Shinde camp)- BJP government has been a two-man show for more than 25 days.

Sources say that the final list will be made in concurrence with the BJP top brass, adding that the Cabinet expansion could take place in the coming week.

It is believed that the Monsoon Session of the new Assembly, which was due on July 18 but got postponed, is likely to begin from the first week of August and that the expansion will be done before that.

Shinde govt. won't last six months: Sanjay Raut

'Making him CM is a gimmick by BJP'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Following the remarks by Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil that the party had accepted rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister with a "heavy heart", Sena MP and Uddhav Thackeray loyalist Sanjay Raut on Sunday said the statement indicated that the Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis government in the State would not last more than six months.

"While there is not a culture of freedom of speech within the BJP, Mr. Patil ought to be commended for speaking his mind [that the BJP reluctantly accepted Mr. Shinde as CM instead of Mr. Fadnavis]... His remarks indicate that Mr. Shinde is merely CM in a temporary arrangement and will soon be ousted," Mr. Raut said, adding that the rebel Shinde faction was in for a jolt.

On Saturday, at the BJP's State executive meet in Panvel, Mr. Patil had said, "There was sadness among workers [that Mr. Fadnavis was not made CM]... but we digested the decision and happily agreed to move ahead with Mr. Shinde."

This prompted a clarification from Mr. Fadnavis that the BJP State chief was merely expressing the feelings of party workers after the Sena (Shinde camp)-BJP took power in the State.

Mr. Raut claimed that it made clear that the BJP, in a bid to avert allegations that it had purchased the rebel Sena MLAs for massive sums of money, was compelled to make Mr. Shinde the CM.

"Elevating Mr. Shinde as CM is a gimmick by the BJP to hoodwink the public and buy time... They will soon topple him after which the Shinde camp will be nowhere," he said.

Mr. Raut said that unlike the BJP, the Sena (Uddhav camp) was not interested in giving dates on loudspeakers, and that the Shinde-Fadnavis government could not last for very long.

Singh Deo-Baghel tussle continues in Chhattisgarh

The central leadership is keeping its cards close to its chest

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

The week-long deadlock in Chhattisgarh politics over senior Minister T.S. Singh Deo's explosive "resignation letter" and majority of party MLAs demanding action against him for offering an "issue to the Bharatiya Janata Party on a platter" continues with the Congress's central leadership keeping its cards close to its chest.

Mr. Singh Deo has been camping in the national capital for the past few days and has been unable to meet the senior leaders to raise his concerns that led to his resignation from the Panchayati Raj portfolio, which is seen as a fresh salvo in his purported leadership tussle with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

On the other hand, Mr. Baghel was back in Raipur after a short trip to Delhi, his first since the leadership issue resurfaced with Mr. Singh Deo's resignation. However, sources said no discussions were held over the prevailing situation in Chhattisgarh. The Chief Minister – who is the chief observer for the upcoming Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh – met leaders from the Himachal Congress. Congress leader Sachin Pilot, who is one of the two observers for the election, was also present in the meeting.

T.S. Singh Deo

Meet with Sonia, Rahul

It was also speculated that Mr. Baghel would meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi to discuss the leadership issue but Mr. Gandhi is said to be unwell. Sources said the Chief Minister was likely to go back to Delhi after the Monsoon Session of the Chhattisgarh Assembly concludes on July 27.

On July 16, Mr. Singh Deo had stepped down as the Panchayati Raj Minister after attacking his own government for failing to construct eight lakh houses meant for rural poor under the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). He alleged that his position as a Minister had been undermined against the set protocol in an unfair manner.

Last week, Mr. Baghel relieved Mr. Singh Deo from the Panchayati Raj Minister portfolio, and senior Cabinet Minister Ravindra Choubey was appointed Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, even as both the Ministers kept their other portfolios.

This aggressive stance of the BJP had prompted a large number of MLAs to write a letter to the party high command demanding action against the defiant Minister.

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आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु विस्तृत सूचना तथा दिशा-निर्देश के लिए कृपया वीएसएससी वेबसाइट http://www.vssc.gov.in देखें। आवेदकों को सभी सूचनाएं ई-मेल/वीएसएससी वेबसाइट के माध्यम से ही दी जाएंगी।

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आवेदन मात्र ऑन-लाइन द्वारा ही प्राप्त किए जाएंगे तथा ऑन-लाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु दिनांक 25.07.2022 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 08.08.2022को1700 बजे तक वेबसाइट खुला रहेगा।

Applications will be received on-line only and the website will be open from 25.07.2022 1000 hrs to 08.08.2022 1700 hrs for submission of online applications.

SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES :: TIRUPATI
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
(A University Established by an Act of A.P. State Legislature)

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through e-tendering process (Two bid System) 1) For SVIMS (a)Medical Equipment (b)Equipment on reagent rentals (c) Stationery, Computer Stationery, Sanitary and Linen (d) Refilling of O_2(D.B), N_2O (DN_2, CO_2.
2) For SVIMS, BIRRD, SPCHC & Central Hospital, TTD for the period 2022-24
(a) Surgical Consumables & Disposables
(b) Supplementary Tender for medicines & Lab Items.
For details Log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

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DIRECTOR-CUM-V.C

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Pipelines Division, ETBPNMTPL R-LNG Pipeline Project
Notice for purchase of land for Sectionalized Valve(SV) and Receiving Terminal(RT) Stations

Sealed offers are invited in TWO SEPERATE ENVELOPES (One containing Technical details of the site and the other containing the financial offer) from interested parties holding valid and clear marketable title of land in possession, on the date of release of this advertisement for outright sale of land to Indian Oil Corporation Limited in and around the following villages for setting up of Sectionalized valve (SV)/ Receiving Terminal (RT) stations for Sri City Spurline of Ennore-Thiruvallur-Bengaluru-Puducherry-Nagapatinam-Madurai-Tuticorin(ETBPNMTPL) R-LNG Pipeline Project.

S. No.	Valve location	Village	Taluk	District	State	Size of land required (Approx.)
1	SV-01	Eguvarpalayam (Madarpakkam-Gummidipoondi Road) MDR-599	Gummidipoondi	Tiruvallur	Tamil Nadu	50m X50m
2	Sri City RT	Irugulam	Satyavedu	Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh	55mx 60m

1. The land shall be adjacent to motorable road and free from high tension lines, power lines, other oil/water pipelines, public road, cremations, burial ground, canal, drainage, railway line, religious structures etc.
2. The land shall be free from encumbrance (legally through) and should not have been allotted to SC/ST /Other weaker communities by Government.
3. District authorities and other Govt. bodies can also apply against this advertisement and preference will be given to Govt. land/bodies if found suitable.
4. Brokers and property dealers need not apply.
5. IOCL takes no responsibility for delay, loss or non-receipt of documents by post.
6. IOCL reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof.

Interested parties are requested to apply with the following details:

Envelope-1: (1) Name of land owner, (2) Father's name, (3) Address-Village, Post, District, (4) Telephone No. (5)Land Details – Plot area, Plot No., Tehsil, District, a copy of the ROR with a letter of consent to sale (6)Road near to plot (7) key plan (Conditions if any shall be indicated in technical bid only).

Envelope-2: The financial document shall contain the sale rate in ₹ Per Sqm. (or) per cent.

The application with above details should reach this office before 10.08.2022 in following address in closed/sealed envelope putting both the envelope 1 and 2 in single cover. The name of the village must clearly be mentioned on the envelope.

Deputy General Manager (Construction), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Southern Region Pipelines, No. 6/13, Wheatcroft road, House of Four Frames, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034
Tel. No. 044-28243181/42 Mob. 9443236433

5G spectrum auction from tomorrow

Reliance Jio, Adani Data Networks, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea to participate in the bidding

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The much-awaited auction for telecom spectrum, including for 5G airwaves, will begin on Tuesday. However, analysts do not anticipate aggressive bidding, given the sufficient availability of spectrum and limited number of participants.

A total of 72,097.85 MHz (or 72 Ghz) of spectrum with a validity period of 20 years will be put on the block. Airwaves across low (600 MHz, 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz), mid (3300 MHz) and high (26 GHz) frequency bands, valued at ₹4,316 billion ($56 billion) at least, will be put up for bidding.

It is expected that the mid- and high-band spectrum will be utilised by telecom service providers to roll out 5G services, wherein speeds would be 10 times higher than what is possible through the current 4G services.

"The highest amount of spectrum available per player for 5G bands on a pan-India basis will be worth ₹489 billion ($6.1 billion). Assuming both Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel bid to the maximum extent allowed, there will still be enough spectrum left to satisfy the maximum amount that the other two players can bid," Morgan Stanley said in a recent note.

Likewise, Motilal Oswal noted that there is no risk of overbidding as unlike previous auctions, there is abundant spectrum, limited participants and a cap on spectrum bidding to limit the bidding space to three-to-four sizeable players across 5G bands (700MHz, 3300MHz, and 26GHz).

Dialling up | A total 72 GHz of spectrum worth at least ₹4.3 lakh crore will be put on the block during the 5G auction, scheduled to begin on July 26. Earnest money deposits (EMD) — reflective of the quantity of airwaves a company can bid for in the auction - of all the four applicants seeking 5G radiowaves add up to ₹21,800 crore. Eligibility points are also assigned based on EMD.

Company	Reliance Jio	Bharti Airtel	Vodafone Idea	Adani Data Networks
EMD	14,000	5,500	2,200	100
Potential worth of bids on auction day	1.27 lakh	48,000	20,000	700
Eligibility points assigned for auction	1,59,830	66,330	29,370	1,650
Net worth	1,97,790	75,886.80	-80,918	4,979
Last year's EMD	10,000	3,000	475	-
Worth of spectrum picked up last year	57,122.65	18,699	1,993.40	-

ALL FIGURES IN RUPEE CRORES — SOURCE: PTI

Earnest money deposit

Four bidders will be participating in the upcoming auction – Reliance Jio, Adani Data Networks, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea. As per official data, while Reliance Jio has made a ₹14,000-crore earnest money deposit (EMD), the deposit amount for Adani Data Network stood at a modest ₹100 crore, Bharti Airtel at ₹5,500 crore and Vodafone Idea at ₹2,200 crore.

The EMD provides an indication of the maximum quantity of airwaves a company can bid for in the auction. Typically, the maximum auction participation is eight to 10 times of the EMD.

"Even if Reliance Jio (looking at its aggressive EMD) or any other player bids aggressively, a) it may not move the reserve price materially, and b) it will still leave sufficient room for all players to acquire spectrum, either in this or subsequent auction," Motilal Oswal said.

However, it added that telcos have offered a sizeable EMD in a bid to create a reasonable war chest to combat any aggression ahead of the 5G auction.

Research agency Nomura noted that with Adani group submitting a modest EMD, the concerns on its entry into the telecom sector has significantly eased now.

For Reliance Jio, it estimates potential outlay at about ₹405 billion-₹600 billion, while for Bharti Airtel the overall outlay could be ₹394 billion and for Vodafone Idea, about ₹184 billion.

18 candidates share first rank in ISC Class 12 exam

Pass percentage for girls is higher than that of boys

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Eighteen candidates shared the top rank in the Class 12 Indian School Certificate examination with a score of 99.75%. The results were announced on Sunday.

The second rank is shared by 58 candidates who scored 99.5%, while 78 candidates who scored 99.25% shared the third rank.

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has announced a merit list after two years as results were declared on basis of an alternative assessment scheme after exams could not be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pass percentage for girls (99.52%) is marginally higher than that of boys (99.26%), officials said, adding that the overall pass percentage was 99.38%.

Students celebrate their success after the declaration of Class 12th result. • PTI

For the first time in the history of the council, the CISCE conducted two examinations in a single examination year.

While semester one examinations were held in November-December 2021, the second semester examinations were conducted in April-May 2022, for Classes 10 and 12.

Explaining the result computation formula, Council Secretary Gerry Arathoon said the first semester marks of each subject has been halved with the exception of subjects such as geometrical, mechanical drawing and art.

"These marks have then been added to the second semester and practical/project marks to arrive at final marks in each subject," he added.

A total of 1,228 schools had presented candidates for the CISCE Class 12 examination and a total of 96,940 candidates – 52.76 % boys and 47.24 % girls – appeared for the exams. The candidates included 12 visually challenged students, of which six have scored above 90%. Similarly, of 180 candidates with learning difficulties, 18 have scored above 90% in the exams.

New generation should follow path of non-violence: Venkaiah

Vice-President releases biography of ISKCON founder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, on Sunday, released *Sing, Dance and Pray*, a biography of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The book is authored by historian Hindol Sengupta.

Mr. Naidu said *bhakti* runs through the veins of Indians. "It is very important for our younger generation to get back to our roots and follow the path of non-violence, spirituality and universal brotherhood," he said and added that the book was a fitting tribute to Srila Prabhupada on his 125th birth anniversary.

"His life showed us the unique path of supreme consciousness, ethereal lasting inner peace and salvation," the Vice-President said.

He added that Srila Prabhupada embraced those discarded by society and brought joy and fulfilment to their lives. "ISKCON has worked on uplifting the masses through non-sectarian universal methods of worship," he said.

He praised ISKCON Bangalore's spirit of service that led to the birth of The Akshaya Patra Foundation, which has become the world's largest NGO-run school lunch programme. "Share and care is the core of our Indian philosophy and we must continue following it for a better tomorrow," he said.

Apart from Mr. Naidu and Dr. Sengupta, Madhu Pandit Dasa, President, ISKCON-Bangalore and chairman, Akshaya Patra Foundation, and Chanchalapathi Dasa, senior vice-president, ISKCON-Bangalore and vice-chairman, Akshaya Patra Foundation, attended the event.

Long walk

Holy trip: Kanwarias carrying water from the Ganga in Haridwar crossing Delhi as part of the Kanwar Yatra on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Digital Jyot glows brighter with every tribute posted

34 lakh messages sent till Sunday

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

A beam of light installed by the government at Central Park here to pay tribute to freedom fighters has been getting brighter with each message posted on the website. Thirty-four lakh messages have been sent as on Sunday, according to those involved with the project.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Saturday tweeted about "Digital Jyot" and asked people to send in their messages at *digitaltribute.in* to make the beam brighter.

Installed on March 12, the beam gets brighter as more messages paying tribute to freedom fighters are posted by the public on the website.

The individual messages are also played on a screen at Central Park as a part of the initiative to mark 75 years of Independence.

"A sky beam light has been installed at Central Park in Delhi. Every tribute paid will intensify the illumination of the Digital Jyot. Do take part in this unique endeavour and strengthen *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*," Mr. Modi had said in a tweet.

One crore target

The beam became brighter after Mr. Modi's appeal on Twitter on Saturday with 2 lakh messages being posted, said Saurav Bhaik, the founder of Tagbin, a company working on the project under the Culture Ministry.

The beam which glowed faintly (top) had become more intense on Saturday.

As of now the beam is around 800 watts and would be 2,500 watts at full capacity with one crore messages, Mr. Bhaik said.

"The beam can be seen from 30 km on a clear day on full intensity. We have installed a controller in the skylight which increases the brightness of the light with every digital tribute. The light will be at its full capacity when tribute count reaches one crore," Mr. Bhaik said.

Two more labourers rescued in Arunachal

Ten of the missing 19 found so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Two more missing construction labourers from Assam were rescued from Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh on Sunday.

The district's Deputy Commissioner, Nighee Bengia, said Kholebuddin Sheikh and Shamidul Sheikh were rescued in a critical condition by the State Disaster Response Force and locals from a jungle between Huri and Tapa villages on Sunday. Ten of the 19 missing workers have been rescued so far. The 19 workers had fled their camp near the site of construction of a road being executed by the Border Roads Organisation.

They slipped away at night because they were allegedly denied permission to go home and celebrate Bakrid.

Mr. Bengia said the members of the rescue team returned by the evening due to the threat of poisonous snakes in the jungle. The operation would be resumed on Monday, he added.

Study on snow leopard and its prey

Strong link between habitat use by mountain cat and Siberian ibex, blue sheep

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

A recent study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) on snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) has thrown up interesting insights on the elusive mountain cat and its prey species.

The study under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies revealed a strong link between habitat use by snow leopard and its prey species Siberian ibex and blue sheep.

Scientists used camera traps and sign surveys to evaluate the co-occurrence patterns of snow leopards and its prey species in Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh. Details of the study have been published in the journal *Plos One*.

"We found that the snow leopard detection probability was high if the site was used by its prey species – ibex and blue sheep. Whereas, in the case of the prey species, the probability of detection was low when the predator was present and detected. Besides this, our results suggested that both species were less likely to be detected together than expected ...," it states. Lalit Kumar Sharma, lead author of the publication, said that snow leopards use rugged mountainous areas or non-forested areas covering an altitude between 3,200 metres to 5,200 metres.

Dr. Sharma, who heads the GIS & Wildlife Section of the ZSI, said that the study suggested that habitat covariates such as barren area, grassland, aspect, slope and distance to water were important drivers of habitat use for the snow leopard as well as its prey species. He added that the Spiti Valley possessed a good habitat in and outside the protected areas which could support a viable population of both threatened snow leopard and its prey species.

Classified as 'Vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red list and listed in Schedule-I species of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, snow leopards are elusive mountain cats.

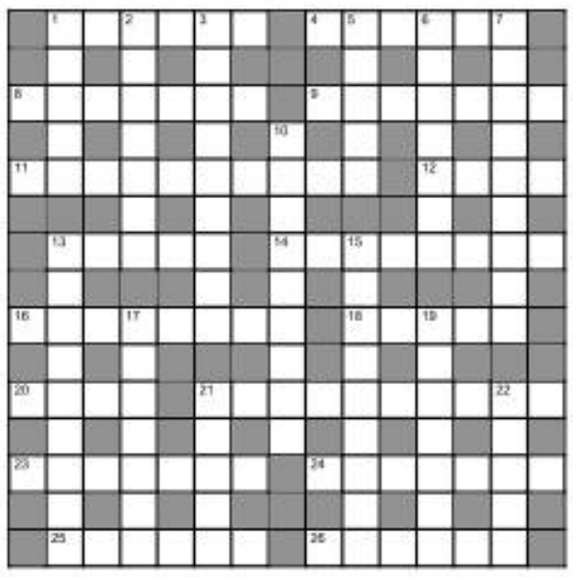
Dhriti Banerjee, Director, ZSI, said that protecting snow leopards may result in a cascade of benefits to the ecosystem as a whole.

TH CROSSWORD + 13617

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 A dry time in NY? Correct (6)
4 Is love and sleep, on reflection, one of few similar things, chemically? (6)
8 Music broadcaster's explosive display of love, hugs and kisses backfired (7)
9 Second criminal agent captured with electric device (7)
11 Lonely champ lost, quietly left, sad (10)
12 1001 staff? (4)
13 Spicy herb these days infected by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (5)
14 Plant's bitterness starting to cool off when infused with head of garlic (8)
16 Discontinue publicity or fashion magazine will lose headline (8)
18 Herb is in a corner (5)
20 Bean and lime oddly make a medicine (4)
21 After heart of seeds was taken out peony nearly withered as a plant (5,5)
23 Respect short gangster and military man (7)
24 Section of turmeric – a raw Ayurvedic herb (7)
25 Communist arrested worker that complained (6)
26 Soldiers get tax break (6)

Down

1 Rose with a problem reinforced with base of bark (5)
2 Setter's overcome by joint pain, played drums (7)
3 Dish made from whiskey, say's good (6,3)
5 Supreme Court's first adjudication online's alarming (5)
6 Smallest dress on parent (7)
7 Erect nice building with modesty (9)
10 Source of protein from a bone stays labile after a bone breaks off (4,5)
13 Herb or rice curry with stuffing (9)
15 Accountant left academy suddenly after record was prepared in advance (5-4)
17 Plant mainly indoors – over/under incline (7)
19 First person to complain about working back in the past? (4,3)
21 Flight to Nepal crashed (5)
22 Gather confession of setter's stupidity (5)

SUDOKU

6	2	5				7	4	
		4					1	2
					4			
			4	8		9		7
4		2		1	3			
			3					
1	8					6		
	6	3				4	8	9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13616

	L	E	A	O	I	B	S	
B	A	S	S	E	T	B	A	D
	X	C	H	L	E	B	E	
H	A	B	A	N	E	R	A	A
	T	P	N	T	L	Y	D	
F	I	R	E	S	A	L	E	I
	V			S	S	A		
P	E	N	S	I	D	N	S	T
		C	V	A			N	
C	L	E	A	V	E	M	A	J
	E	R	R	P	E	E	L	
E	G	G	C	U	P	H	O	T
	U	E	A	O	L	N	S	
E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	R	A
	E	Y	S	A	G	O	M	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	5	2	3	1	8	6	9
2	8	1	9	6	5	4	3	7
6	9	3	8	7	4	2	5	1
3	4	7	5	2	8	1	9	6
5	2	9	6	1	7	3	4	8
8	1	6	4	9	3	5	7	2
1	3	2	7	5	9	6	8	4
9	6	8	3	4	2	7	1	5
7	5	4	1	8	6	9	2	3

FAITH

Supremacy of Narayana

It is very clear from the scriptures, puranas, itihasas, etc, that many great devotees and tatva jnanis have sought God and attained Him, though His undoubted Supremacy puts a distance between Him and the entire creation, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. Vibhishana, a true bhakta, aware of Rama's Paratva, seeks refuge in Him. To him, Rama is a Mahatma and the 'Sarva Loka Saranyan.' Sugriva initially sees Rama as a friend but becomes a bhakta in due course. The simple folk such as Guha, Sabhari, Jatayu, also have an innate sense of Rama's Paratva. The rishis in Dandakaranya surrender to Rama and seek His protection.

The same epic shows that even one who deserves to be punished is pardoned and graced by the Divine Dampati. This is the case of Kakasura. His act of unpardonable transgression against Sita incites Rama's ire to aim an arrow at him. Chased by it, he runs from pillar to post through all the worlds and is unable to find any help. He comes back to Rama and lies prostrate at His feet. Sita intercedes and positions the bird's head to face Rama's feet to indicate the act of surrender. Rama lets him off by taking away one eye.

Smritis proclaim the supremacy of Narayana and explain it in two ways etymologically. It is shown that the term Narayana is a compound word, comprising 'Naara' and 'ayana.' In one sense, the word 'Naara' refers to water and 'ayana' to abode. Water has its origin from 'Nara' the Lord. The water became His abode the 'ayana,' and hence He is known as Narayana. 'Naara' has another sense as well in that it refers to the entire multitude of jivas. The term 'ayana' in this context is interpreted as 'ultimate goal' for all the jivas; also that the whole host of jivas has its abode in Him, indicative of His all pervasiveness.

Ukraine set to resume grain exports

A day after attack on Odesa port, Russia claims it had targeted a Ukrainian military boat with missiles

REUTERS
KYIV

Ukraine pressed ahead on Sunday with efforts to restart grain exports from Odesa and other Black Sea ports. This came a day after Russian missiles hit the port of Odesa, casting a doubt on whether Russia would honour a deal aimed at easing global food shortages caused by the war.

President Volodymyr Zelensky denounced the strikes on Odesa as blatant "barbarism" that showed Moscow could not be trusted to implement Friday's deal, mediated by Turkey and the United Nations.

However, a government Minister said preparations to resume grain shipments were ongoing. Public broadcaster Suspilne quoted the Ukrainian military as saying the missiles had not significantly damaged the port.

The deal signed by Moscow and Kyiv was hailed as a diplomatic breakthrough that would help curb soaring global food prices, but as the war entered its sixth month on Sunday there was no sign of a let-up in the fighting.

Firefighters working at a site of a Russian missile strike in a seaport of Odesa on Saturday. • REUTERS

Russia said on Sunday its forces had hit a Ukrainian military boat in Odesa with missiles.

"A docked Ukrainian warship and a warehouse with U.S.-supplied Harpoon anti-ship missiles were destroyed by long-range precision-guided naval missiles in Odesa seaport on the territory of a ship repair plant."

While the main theatre of combat has been the eastern Donbas region, Mr. Zelensky said late on Saturday that Ukrainian forces were moving "step by step" into the occupied eastern Black Sea region of Kherson.

Ukraine's military on Sunday reported Russian shelling in numerous locations in the north, south and east, and again referred to Russian operations paving the way for an assault on Bakhmut in the Donbas.

Fresh strikes

The country's Air Force command said that it had shot down three Kalibr cruise missiles launched on Sunday morning by the Russian forces from the Black Sea and aimed at the western Khmelnytskiy region.

The strikes on Odesa drew condemnation from the UN, the EU, the U.S., Britain, Germany and Italy.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov offered reassurances over Russian grain supplies to Egypt during a visit to Cairo on Sunday.

Egypt is one of the world's top wheat importers and last year bought about 80% of those imports from Russia and Ukraine.

In its response to the war, Egypt has been torn between long-standing ties to Russia and its close relationship to Western powers that have sanctioned and sought to isolate Moscow.

Western Embassies had lobbied Egypt and the Arab League ahead of Mr. Lavrov's visit, which included talks with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and representatives of the Arab League.

Russian assurance

"We reaffirmed the commitment of Russian grain exporters to meet all their commitments," Mr. Lavrov said at a press briefing with Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry.

Turkey's Defence Minister said on Saturday that Russian officials told Ankara that Moscow had "nothing to do" with the strikes.

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat set to reopen

Galle Road that leads to the building was opened to traffic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's Presidential Secretariat, which was stormed by a sea of anti-government protesters in early July, is set to return to functioning from Monday under a tight security cover, according to a media report.

Cleaning and repairs were under way at the Presidential Secretariat over the weekend as security forces opened Galle Road in front of the building for traffic, a senior police official said, as reported by the *Sunday Times* newspaper.

The site, which had been blocked by protesters for more than 100 days, saw an excessive rampage by protesters on July 9, forcing Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country and resign as President.

Work to resume: Police and Army personnel stand guard in front of the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo. • AFP

In a pre-dawn raid on Friday, Sri Lankan security forces attacked a site of anti-government protesters at Galle Face, where several government offices are located, after they were given permission to take whatever action is necessary to stop people from illegally storming public facilities and obstructing the Parliament.

The movement disrupted work for a prolonged period at the Presidential Secretariat, which has gone through heavy damages during the agitation.

A police spokesman said many valuable items, including items of vintage and antique value, had gone missing from the Presidential Palace and Prime Minister's official residence at Temple Trees here after protesters stormed the sites.

Thousands ordered to flee California wildfire

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WAWONA

A fast-moving brush fire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size on Saturday into one of California's largest wildfires of the year, prompting evacuation orders for thousands of people and shutting off power to more than 2,000 homes and businesses.

Evacuation orders were put in effect on Saturday for over 6,000 people living across a several-mile span in the sparsely populated, rural area, said Daniel Patterson, a spokesman for the Sierra National Forest.

"Explosive fire behaviour is challenging firefighters," Cal Fire said in a statement.

By Saturday morning, the fire had destroyed 10 residential and commercial structures, damaged five others and was threatening 2,000 more structures, Cal Fire said. The blaze prompted numerous road closures.

More than 400 firefighters, along with helicopters, battled the blaze, said Daniel Patterson, a spokesman for the Sierra National Forest. Hot weather, low humidity and bone dry vegetation caused by the worst drought in decades was fueling the blaze and challenging fire crews, he added.

Israeli forces kill two Palestinians

Military says soldiers retaliated after protesters opened fire at them

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NABLUS

Israeli forces on Sunday exchanged fire with Palestinians barricaded in a house in the occupied West Bank, killing two, Israeli police said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent identified the deceased as Aboud Sobh, 29, and Muhammad Al-Azizi, 22. The rescue service said 19 Palestinians were wounded, including two critically.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said the suspects had been wanted for a series of shootings. "We won't sit and wait for Israeli citizens to be harmed," he told a meeting of his Cabinet. "We will go out and harm the terrorists in their homes."

On the boil: People gather at the site where two Palestinians were killed during clashes in West Bank on Sunday. • AFP

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, condemned the violence, saying it was a result of Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians seek for an independent state.

"The region will remain in a cycle of violence until the occupation is ended and a just peace achieved," he said.

The military said a violent protest broke out as troops were operating in Nablus, with protesters opening fire at them. The soldiers fired back, it said.

Israeli forces have been carrying out near-daily raids in the West Bank for months, in a bid to quell a spate of attacks by Palestinians on Israelis that has since subsided. The military has faced resistance during some of those raids.

Evacuation alert after volcano erupts in Japan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Dozens of people were urged to evacuate their homes after a fiery volcanic eruption in southern Japan on Sunday as the national weather agency issued its top-level alert for the mountain.

Television footage showed red-hot rocks and dark plumes exploding from Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima.

There were no immediate reports of damage, said deputy chief cabinet secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has instructed the government "to work closely with the local municipality to ensure damage prevention, such as through evacuations," Isozaki told reporters.

The volcano frequently spits out smoke and ash, and is a major tourist attraction.

Sunday's blast propelled large cinders about 2.5 km from the crater, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said, while the smoke reached around 300 m and merged with the clouds.

The agency raised its alert for Sakurajima to level five, the top level, which urges evacuations.

3 shot dead at university in Philippines

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANILA

Three people were killed on Sunday in a rare shooting at a university in the Philippine capital Manila, officials said, in what appears to have been a targeted assassination.

The incident happened at Ateneo de Manila University as law students and their families arrived for a graduation ceremony that was to be attended by the Supreme Court Chief Justice.

Rose Furigay, a former city Mayor in Basilan and whose daughter was among the graduates, was killed, authorities said. Furigay's executive assistant and a university security guard were also killed.

Her daughter was wounded and is in a "stable condition" in hospital, police said. "We are quite distraught and bereaved by this occurrence," Joy Belmonte, a local Mayor said.

Pope arrives in Canada to apologise to Indigenous groups

Thousands had died in Catholic residential schools

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis arrived on Sunday in Canada, where he is expected to personally apologise to Indigenous survivors of abuse committed over a span of decades at residential schools run by the Catholic Church.

The head of the world's 1.3 billion Catholics landed at Edmonton's international airport shortly after 11 a.m. (1700 GMT), with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcoming him at an airport ceremony that began with the playing of Native American drums.

During the 10-hour flight from Rome, Pope Francis told journalists travelling with him that "we must be aware that this is a penitential journey."

The 85-year-old pontiff's Canada visit is primarily to apologise to survivors for the Church's role in the scandal that a national truth and reconciliation commission has called "cultural genocide".

A monument honouring the survivors of a Catholic school in Maskwacis, Alberta. • AFP

From the late 1800s to the 1990s, Canada's government sent about 1,50,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit children into 139 residential schools run by the Church, where they were cut off from their families, language and culture.

Many were physically and sexually abused by headmasters and teachers.

Thousands of children are believed to have died of disease, malnutrition or neglect.

Since May 2021, more than 1,300 unmarked graves have been discovered at the sites of the former schools.

A delegation of Indigenous peoples travelled to the Vatican in April and met the Pope after which he formally apologised.

But doing so again on Canadian soil will be of huge significance for survivors and their families, for whom the land of their ancestors is of particular importance.

The Pope will travel on Monday to the community of Maskwacis, some 100 km south of Edmonton, and address an estimated crowd of 15,000 expected to include former students from across the country.

China launches second space station module

Wentian to host space for experiments, serve as short-term living quarters

REUTERS
BEIJING

China on Sunday launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station, in one of the final missions needed to complete the orbiting outpost by year's end.

A live feed on state broadcaster CCTV showed the 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the Heavens") laboratory module launching on the back of China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B, at 2:22 p.m. (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan.

Space agency staff, seen on the live feed observing the progress of the launch from a control room, cheered and applauded when the Wentian separated from the rocket about 10 minutes after the launch.

A Long March-5B Y3 rocket, carrying the Wentian lab module. • REUTERS

'Complete success'

The launch was "a complete success", CCTV reported shortly after.

China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main living quarters, in the first of 11 crewed and uncrewed missions in the undertaking.

The Wentian lab module, 17.9 m long, will provide space for experiments, along with the other lab module yet to be launched – Mengtian ("Dreaming of the Heavens").

Wentian features an airlock cabin that is to be the main exit-entry point for extravehicular activities when the station is completed.

It will also serve as short-term living quarters for astronauts during crew rotations on the station, which is designed for long-term accommodation of just three astronauts.

Mengtian is expected to be launched in October and, like Wentian, is to dock with Tianhe, forming a T-shaped structure.

'Source of pride'

The completion of the structure, about a fifth of the International Space Station (ISS) by mass, is a source of pride among ordinary Chinese people and will cap President Xi Jinping's 10 years as leader of China's ruling Communist Party.

On board the space station are Shenzhou-14 mission commander Chen Dong and team mates Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe. They are slated to return to Earth in December with the arrival of the Shenzhou-15 crew.

ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Q. I am a government employee in Delhi and as per norms, an amount is being deducted from my salary to contribute to National Pension Scheme. An equivalent amount is being contributed by the employer also. What are the sections under which I can claim deduction for NPS (and up to how much)? Is the same applicable for tier 2 accounts too? Also, can I claim deduction for the amount contributed by the employer? If so, what are the sections and what is the limit?

AJIN KRISHNAN K

A. Contribution to NPS directly by your employer as employee share and employer share is covered under Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 respectively. The deductions on account of these contributions are covered under Section 80CCE of the Income Tax Act, 1961 whereby a limit of ₹1.5 lakh is imposed for the deductions under Section 80C, Section 80CCC, Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. For employee share of the NPS contribution, the deduction that can be claimed is 10% of basic and dearness allowance, while the deduction on the employer share, in your case the government being your employer, is 14% of basic and dearness allowance. It is to be noted that the aforementioned quantum of deduction cannot exceed the limits prescribed under Section 80CCE of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Under Section 80CCD, any pension scheme as notified by the central government is covered, as NPS tier 2 is a part of the NPS which is notified by the central government, contributions made to tier 2 NPS accounts can also be considered for deduction under Section 80CCD(1B) when done voluntarily.

Q. My wife (66 years) and I (69 years) are joint owners of a piece of residential property that we are planning to sell for ₹85 lakh. We also plan to buy another house or flat for ₹1 crore by adding my retirement benefit of ₹15 lakh to the sale proceeds. Can you kindly advise me as to whether the proposed transaction will attract any income tax and if so, on the amount payable?

C. SELVAMANI

A. It is assumed that you are in possession and ownership of the residential property that you are currently residing in for more than 2 years. In which case, on sale of this property, the long-term capital gains thus arising shall be exempt from tax if the entire long-term capital gains amount is invested in another residential property under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. You have to purchase or construct the new residential property within 2 years or 3 years respectively from the date of sale of the current residential property in order to avail this exemption.

Q. This is a question on capital gains tax (CGT) on property sale. If I sell a piece of land, bought 5 years earlier, then capital gains is the price difference between now and five years ago. CGT is calculated considering the gain after indexation.
Let us now consider a different situation wherein, instead of my selling it, I transfer the same land to my wife with a gift deed today. No tax is involved on this transfer, I presume. My wife then sells the land after one month. What is the capital gains in this situation — price difference within a month, or 5 years and one month?

XAVIER

A. As far as the transfer of property between the spouses is considered, it is a tax-free transaction. However, on sale of the land by your wife, as per Section 49 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the cost of acquisition and the period of acquisition of the previous owner only is to be considered (i.e the original cost of purchase and the original date of purchase as done by you). The capital gains tax that you ought to have paid is the same capital gains tax that is arrived at when done in this manner. Further, under Section 64 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 direct or indirect transfer of assets to an assessee's spouse without adequate consideration will be assessed in the hands of the transferring spouse. The capital gains tax as determined previously is to be clubbed in your hands and assessed in your hands only. To conclude, you may directly sell the property and pay the requisite taxes as the effect is the same when transferred to your spouse and her selling the land.

Q. I became the owner of a landed property inherited from my parents in the year 2003. I want to sell this piece of property now and share the proceeds thereof among my two adult, married sons and myself. I am an income tax payee. I understand that I am liable for the capital gains tax as well as income tax on the interest money earned from the sale proceeds amount. I want your esteemed advice on how to proceed in this regard obeying the prescribed rules and regulations. I do not want to invest in another real estate property.

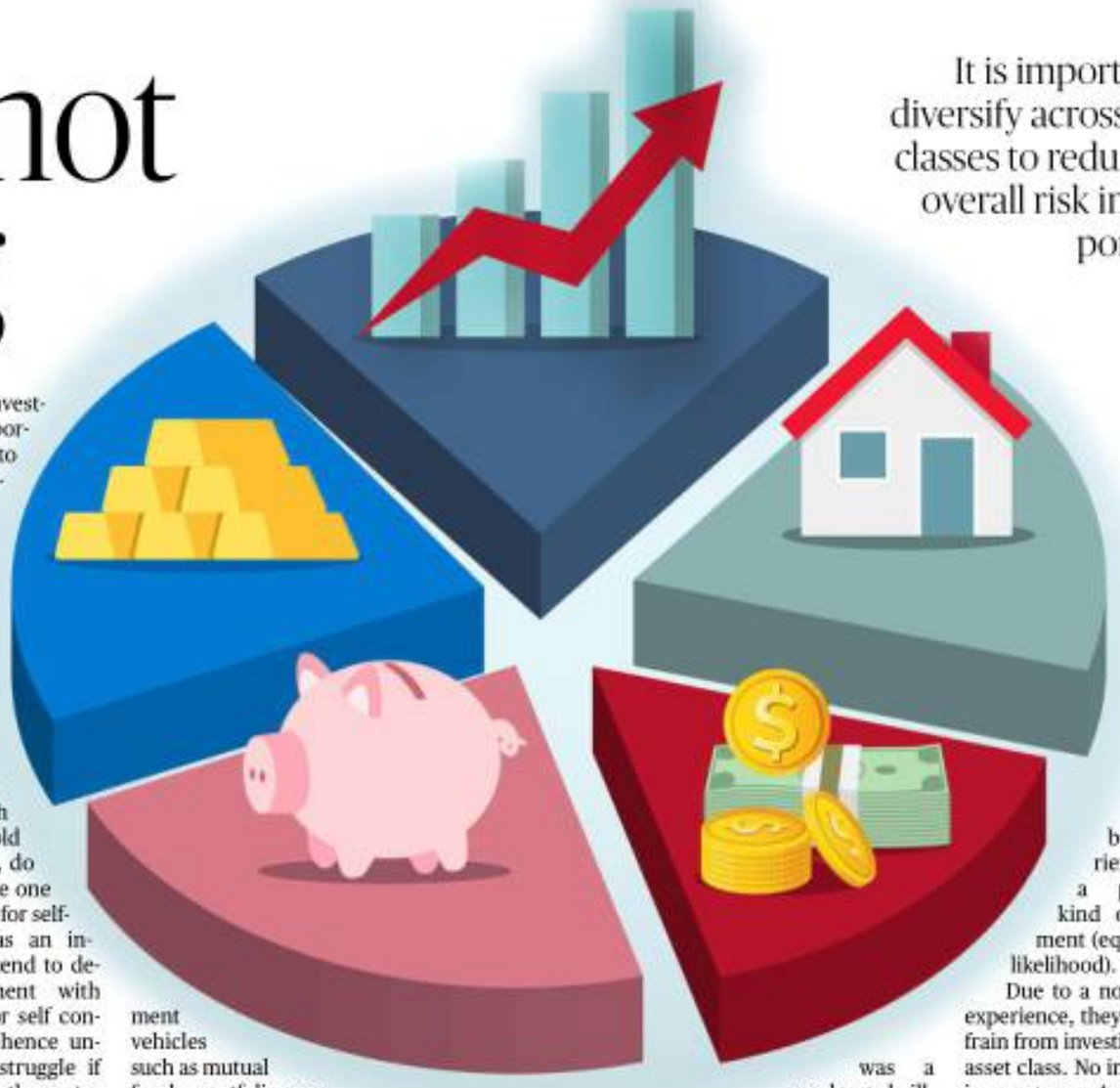
RAVINDRANATHAN. M

A. Long Term Capital Gains Tax will be attracted on the difference between the Sale Consideration (Fair Value of Consideration) and the Indexed Cost of Acquisition. You will be liable to pay 20% plus applicable surcharge and cess on the LTCG as tax. Per your query, as you do not want to invest the proceeds into any other real estate property you may choose to invest in bonds as prescribed under Section 54EC of the I-TAct, 1961. You will be eligible for an exemption of the LTCG amount if the same is invested in the bonds as prescribed under the said section; however this amount is restricted to ₹50 lakh. If the long-term capital gains amount is less than ₹50 lakh and the whole long-term capital gains is invested in the prescribed bonds, then the entire transaction becomes tax free. In case the long-term capital gains is above ₹50 lakh, you will have to pay the prescribed tax post the availing of exemption. The investments in these bonds are to be within six months from the date of sale.

(N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

The risk of not diversifying



It is important to diversify across asset classes to reduce the overall risk in one's portfolio

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

Sharad Gandhi came to me with his entire investment portfolio. He wanted to know if his investments were well-balanced and diversified. When I told him I couldn't see any kind of diversification, he thought I was joking at first. However, he soon realised that I was serious about it.

His investments included direct equity, equity mutual funds and also a portfolio management scheme investing in equity markets. His entire portfolio was in equity.

I faced a similar experience many years ago, when an elderly gentleman came to me with investments in bank FDs, company FDs, National Saving Certificates, debt mutual funds and Government of India bonds. All his investments were only in debt instruments.

This is a very common phenomenon. Most investors diversify across investment vehicles and not across asset classes.

Types of asset classes

There are mainly four kinds of asset classes – equity, gold, real estate and debt. Let us very briefly discuss the characteristics.

When we invest in equity, we become the owner of the company. We share the ownership. An owner of the company may make profit or lose money. However, in the long run, business will not survive if it continuously makes losses. Therefore, investment in equity is volatile in giving returns, but over a longer period, substantial returns are possible.

Gold is a metal that can be used for self-consumption or investment. It is a physical asset which we can see and touch. Nowadays, there are options to invest in gold in the form of mutual funds, bonds, etc. Returns from gold, like equity, can move in either direction. While investing in gold, it is important to keep in mind whether it is for self-consumption, investment, or of religious signifance in the Indian context. Investment in gold is highly liquid – it can be easily encashed. Real estate, like gold, may be for self-consumption or investment. It is important to distinguish between the two. An adverse characteristic of real estate is that it is illiquid, indivisible and immovable - we cannot sell real estate easily. To boot, it is immovable. Both in the case of gold and real estate, do not consider the one that is acquired for self-consumption as an investment. We tend to develop attachment with items meant for self consumption and hence undergo mental struggle if we need to sell them at a later date.

Both for gold and real estate, do not consider one that is meant for consumption as an investment. We develop attachment to items meant for self consumption and struggle to sell them if we later need to

Finally, there is debt as an asset class. Debt is borrowing. We can borrow money to fund our requirements. On the other hand, we can lend to an individual or institution. When we lend money, we are creating an asset in the form of debt. Returns from debt instruments are in the form of interest.

Investment vehicles

To invest into these four different asset classes, there are various investment vehicles such as mutual funds, portfolio management services, and direct investments.

It is important to diversify across asset classes to reduce the overall risk in one's portfolio.

Someone rightly said, "If a part of your portfolio is not giving negative returns, then you are not diversified enough."

Mistakes we make

A common mistake observed in investors is their liking for real estate. I recall an elderly lady visiting my office in 2014. Her late husband had left her a total portfolio of ₹8.25 crore, apart from the house in which she was living. Of the total portfolio, there was a flat in Worli, Mumbai, which was worth approximately ₹7.50 crore.

The other investments included bank FDs, a PPF account, equity mutual funds, and a few direct equity shares. She was struggling a little to secure a regular income. Also, as a planner, my concern was what would she do if there was a prolonged illness? This is another example of a non-diversified portfolio.

Non-diversification is a big risk which most investors unknowingly ignore. This is because of their liking for a particular type of asset such as equity, gold, real estate or debt. What probably induces this behaviour is that in the past, a particular asset class would have probably given them very high returns and hence the affinity towards that asset class. Another reason could be a bad experience with a particular kind of investment (equity in all likelihood).

Due to a not-so-good experience, they might refrain from investing in that asset class. No investment is evergreen. As they say, "winners rotate."

Therefore, to ensure that we have a well-balanced, diversified portfolio, we must invest across different asset classes. Diversification is recommended across asset classes and not necessarily investment vehicles.

One should remember that real life long-term returns is not what a portfolio does, it is what the investor does.

(The writer is a financial planner & author of Yogic Wealth)

COVER NOTE: PREMIUM PRICING

Now, pay for how much you use

Indian insurance firms are all set to introduce the tech-driven, pay-as-you-use cover on the impetus given by regulator IRDAI

K. NITYA KALYANI

The rider: The car should have been used for 10,000 km or less per year since you bought it from the showroom. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The pricing of insurance is data driven. One layer is macro-level data across years and decades about loss incidence for specific risks like fires in factories, accidents involving goods trucks, and people developing heart disease or dying young.

Another layer is micro data of customers like nature of manufacturing and fire accident prevention and preparedness in a factory; maintenance and usage patterns, including geographical, for a truck; and age and medical history of the proposer for health and life insurance, which give insurance companies a basis for group risk pricing.

Both read together, map the risk profile of the prospective insured, and this leads to the appropriate premium.

Yet, if I am in better health than most people in my age group, I can't help feeling I deserve a better premium. This is managed to a certain extent by no-claim bonuses or incentives such as for not being a smoker as well as loading of premium for negative aspects.

In motor insurance, why should someone who takes out his or her car only on weekends or only to the local bank and supermarket, pay the same premium as a neighbour who drives 80 km each way to work and then some more on weekends?

The answer to this has been the tech-driven pay-as-you-use insurance that Indian insurance companies are all set to introduce on the impetus given by the regulator Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

Companies have started offering this add-on cover under which you can choose a cap on the distance you drive in the policy period and get a discount.

To start with, your car should have been used for 10,000 km or less per year since you bought it from the showroom. If you choose a cap of 7,500 km a year, you get a 10% discount on your total own damage premium.

If you choose 5,000 km, your discount is 15% and at 2,500 km, 25%.

These discounts have been termed disappointing for two reasons. One, they are only on the own damage cover and the other, they are meagre.

Before addressing that, let us see some terms and conditions. You choose your limit at the time of taking the policy or at renewal. You do have the option to increase your limit mid-year, but you have to do it well before you reach the cap and certainly can't do it after any accident or claim.

The 'disappointments'

Third party liability insurance is under a tariff decided by all the companies and not under an individual company's jurisdiction. It deals with an entirely different set of risks, namely the risk of causing damage or loss to other people's vehicle, property or life and limb. TP insurance protects you from this monetary liability and the premium is actually quite moderate in India for the benefits it offers and also compared with other countries.

The own damage premium discount appears meagre for an important reason.

The quantity and quality of your use of your car can change the chances of your getting into an accident and your car sustaining damage

However, your own damage insurance offers some coverage when the vehicle is not on the road as well. For example, it covers damage to or loss of your car in a flood, riot strike and civil commotion and due to theft. Hence, the premium for this doesn't change.

This leaves us with the fact that the discount is actually on a part of the premium, but as that level of detail of premium calculations is opaque to us, we see it as a component of the entire own damage premium and it appears small.

Pay 'how' you use

This is premium based on quality of driving and maintenance of your car, to be precise. For this, the insurance company places a telematics device in your car that reports back data on speeding, or how regularly your engine is tuned or tyres are balanced. Your premium is based on this. Another innovation is a floater sum insured for vehicles owned by the same person similar to floater health policies. An umbrella sum insured is applied across vehicles and the total premium outgo will be lower. However, just as in health policies, once the sum insured is used up by one vehicle/ accident, the remaining vehicles will have that much of a lower coverage till the policy year is out.

It is not yet clear how this will work out for different types of cars which, moreover, could be all in use by different members of the household and whether there can be a reset of coverage during the year (as for pay as you use), but motor insurance is getting interestingly nuanced and a certain 'unfairness' in premium rating now has a means to be addressed.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.90	5.35	6.90	6.90
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.10	6.10	6.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.60	6.90	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.25	6.50	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.20	6.70	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.25	6.90	6.75	6.75
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
Axis Bank	5.75	5.45	5.70	5.75
Bandhan Bank	6.50	6.25	6.50	5.60
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.25	5.65	6.25	6.25
DCB Bank	6.60	6.10	6.60	6.60
HDFC Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
ICICI Bank	5.75	5.35	5.50	5.70
IDFC First Bank	6.50	5.75	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.55	5.20	5.50	5.55
Karnataka Bank	5.50	5.35	5.50	5.50
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.55	5.80	5.90
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.50	5.90	5.90
Nainital Bank	5.60	5.55	5.60	5.60
RBL Bank	6.65	6.25	6.30	6.30
SBM Bank India	7.25	7.00	7.25	5.85
South Indian Bank	5.85	5.60	5.75	5.85
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of Baroda	5.50	5.00	5.50	5.35
Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.35	5.35
Bank of Maharashtra	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Canara Bank	5.75	5.30	5.70	5.75
Indian Bank	5.60	5.25	5.60	5.60
Indian Overseas Bank	5.60	5.40	5.60	5.60
Punjab National Bank	5.75	5.30	5.50	5.75
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.60	5.35	5.60	5.60
State Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.45	5.50
Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
FOREIGN BANKS				
Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.25	6.25	7.00
HSBC Bank	6.00	3.10	4.00	4.00

FD rates as on July 20

Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
	(in %)		
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
State Bank of India	7.55-8.55	7.55-8.45	7.55-8.45
Bank of Baroda	7.45-8.95	7.45-8.95	7.45-9.20
Union Bank of India	7.40-9.15	7.40-9.35	7.40-9.35
Punjab National Bank	7.45-8.85	7.40-8.55	7.40-8.50
Bank of India	7.30-9.15	7.30-9.15	7.30-9.15
Canara Bank	7.55-12.35	7.55-12.35	7.55-12.35
UCO Bank	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60	7.40-7.60
Bank of Maharashtra	7.30-9.20	7.30-9.35	7.30-9.45
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50	7.40-8.50
Indian Overseas Bank	7.95-8.30	8.05-8.30	8.20-8.30
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
ICICI Bank	7.60-8.20	7.60-8.35	7.60-8.45
Axis Bank	7.60-12.50	7.60-12.50	7.60-8.05
HSBC Bank	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20	7.35-8.20
South Indian Bank	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00	8.25-11.00
Karur Vysya Bank	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25	8.05-10.25
Karnataka Bank	7.89-9.14	7.89-9.14	7.89-9.24
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.35-9.50	8.35-9.50	8.35-9.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.95	7.95	7.95
Bandhan Bank	7.30-13.50	7.30-12.65	7.30-12.65
RBL Bank	10.30-12.00	8.70-9.10	8.70-9.00
CSB Bank	8.09	8.09	8.34
HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.50-8.60	7.50-8.80	7.50-9.00
HDFC Ltd.	7.55-8.75	7.55-9.00	7.55-9.10
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards	7.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75
PNB Housing Finance	7.50-16.75	7.50-16.75	7.60-10.70
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.20	>=8.20	>=8.20
Repco Home Finance	>=7.70	>=7.70	>=7.70
Indiabulls Housing	>=7.60	>=7.60	>=7.60
Aditya Birla Capital	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50	8.00-12.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	7.49-10.99	7.49-10.99	7.49-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on July 21 Source: Paisabazaar.com

Olympic champ Neeraj makes history with javelin silver

Becomes first Indian male medallist at Worlds; Grenada's Peters retains his title, Rohit finishes 10th; Eldhose ninth in triple jump

WORLD C'SHIPS

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra made history winning the javelin silver at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday but midway through the final he was in the fourth spot with 86.37m after opening the series with a foul.

For a man used to grabbing the lead with his opening effort – as he did at the Tokyo Olympics qualification and final rounds and also in the qualifiers here – Neeraj appeared to be stuck in a rather different world in the final.

'Could've been better'

"I was only thinking of how to hit the target I had imagined. With time, the competition also gets tougher. The fourth throw was good, but, I feel, it could have been better. Anyway, whatever I did, I am happy with the silver," said the 24-year-old, the country's greatest athlete and also the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion.

National treasure: Neeraj reiterated his status as India's best-ever track and field athlete. *Right:* Eldhose Paul missed the last-eight by 7cm. •REUTERS

"I was a little bit tense after the first two throws (a foul followed by an 82.39m)," Anju Bobby George, the country's only other World Championships medallist with her long jump bronze in Paris 2003, told *The Hindu*.

"And then, when he started the fourth throw I knew it would end up being a big one," she added.

For a country used to disappointments on the big stage, for a few minutes, it felt as if its Olympic champion was also falling into the habit.

But, suddenly misgivings were replaced by joy as Neeraj's 88.13m fourth attempt made him the country's first-ever silver medallist and the first male medallist at the Worlds, pushing Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (88.09) to bronze.

Grenada's defending World champion Anderson Peters retained his title with a massive 90.21m opener and then followed it with two more 90-plus throws (90.46 & 90.54) in what was perhaps the greatest series in Worlds history.

> **Anyway, whatever I did, I am happy with the silver**
> NEERAJ

Below par

Meanwhile, Rohit Yadav, the other Indian in the javelin final, could not touch 80m – a distance he had crossed in the qualification round (80.42) – and finished 10th with 78.72.

And in the men's triple jump, Eldhose Paul missed the last-eight by 7cm and had a best of 16.79m on the second of his three attempts to finish a decent ninth.

However, there was big disappointment in the men's 4x400m relay where Asian record-holder India (rec. 3:00.25s, Tokyo Olympics), comprising Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh, clocked a poor 3:07.23s to finish sixth and last in its heat (12th overall) and failed to make the final.

Silver — a testament to Neeraj's grit, skill and determination

Olympic champion overcame a thigh niggle to climb from fifth and finish second

UTHRA GANESAN

First Indian man to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships. Only the second Indian to do so and the first to get a silver. Owner of every major medal at stake – Olympics, Worlds, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games – and yet, on Sunday, Neeraj Chopra was not as excited as one would expect him to be.

The Olympic champion and silver medallist at the 2022 World Championships was more relieved than elated at the post-event interaction.

The competition had not followed his regular plan of starting at the top and staying there. The conditions were unfamiliar and less than ideal. A strain after his fourth throw made matters worse.

That the 24-year-old still managed to better a tough field was a testament to his grit, ability and the determination to fight back.

Staying focused

"Of course, it is an advantage if your first throws are good, it gives you extra confidence and leverage. But, even if that doesn't happen, we have to stay focused till the very end. It was a bit challenging when the first few throws didn't go great," Neeraj said.

Raising your game to go from fifth to second as the competition progresses isn't easy at the top level. For Neeraj, the challenge was double-fold – out of the medal bracket at the half-way stage and constant high winds blowing against the throw.

It was as much a learning curve as the realisation that there was a long way to go still.

"The opposing winds made it difficult but the conditions also meant the body did not warm up enough till after the third throw.There was pressure. But not the 'I am an Olympic champion, now I have to be World champion' kind. It was a very different kind of pressure. Of doing my best, and that wasn't happening initially. It was challenging but I had the belief. I learnt a lot today," he said.

Bad start

Neeraj started with a foul, then managed a feeble-by-his-standards 82.39m before a decent 86.37m. The fourth of 88.13m was the one that counted and his roar after the throw, the smile at the camera (for the first time on the day) and his attempts to calm himself indicated he knew it too.

Neeraj with his reward at Eugene. •AP

A slight strain in his right thigh was the only concern after the event.

"Also, it is good to expect gold every time but not necessary that will happen. Even no medal is possible, but that's sports for you. Our job is to keep training and push ourselves and that I can assure you I will not stop," he promised.

Golden words from the golden man.

> **Neeraj Chopra continues to bring laurels and make the country proud! Heartiest congratulations on a historic sporting accomplishment... you're a true champion!**
> RAM NATH KOVIND, President of India

> **A great accomplishment by one of our most distinguished athletes...This is a special moment for Indian sports. Best wishes to Neeraj for his upcoming endeavours.**
> NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

> **Neeraj Chopra continues his winning streak... has now won medal at every Global event!** SPORTS MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR

> **Congratulations to Neeraj Chopra...Your best efforts have made our country proud in the world. Keep the flag flying high. Jai Hind** P.T. USHA

> **Neeraj Chopra has added another laurel to his name! India is very proud of you!** SACHIN TENDULKAR

> **NeerajChopra has once again made Indian Army and the Nation proud**
> INDIAN ARMY

> **Congratulations Neeraj Chopra for that magic moment.. welcome to the group... it was a long wait**
> ANJU BOBBY GEORGE

Stunning win for Canada, US relay teams

Korir and Pichardo add World titles to the Olympic crowns

REUTERS

EUGENE

The American women's sprint relay quartet pulled off a stunning upset over Jamaica at the World Championships on Saturday while a flubbed baton handover proved costly for the U.S. men's team as it finished second to Canada.

Jamaica was anchored by new 200 metres champion Shericka Jackson but Twanisha Terry ran a terrific final leg to bring home the host's 10th gold medal in Eugene. Germany took a surprise third-placed finish after Britain's Dina Asher-Smith pulled up injured.

USA had looked set to retain the men's title until Elijah Hall and Marvin Bracy lost time with a slow exchange, the latest disappointment for a country with incredible depth of sprinting talent.

Andre De Grasse, the Olympic 200m champion, beat Bracy to the finish line while Britain collected bronze.

"It's special to win here. There are many Canadians cheering us on. It's not on home soil, but it felt like it," De Grasse said.

Portugal's Pedro Pichardo (triple jump) and Kenyan Emmanuel Korir (800m) added World titles to their Olympic crowns.

No challenge: Pichardo stamped his authority with his very first attempt. •AFP

World-leading

Pichardo jumped a world-leading 17.95m to take gold ahead of Burkina Faso's Hugues Fabrice Zango and China's Olympic silver medallist Zhu Yaming.

Korir produced his trademark devastating kick to clinch the 800m title with Algerian Djamel Sedjati taking a surprise silver ahead of Canada's Marco Arop.

Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay charged down the final straight to win the women's 5,000 metres while world record holder Letesenbet Gidey and Olympic champion Sifan Hassan missed out on a podium finish.

The results:

Men: 4x100m relay: 1. Canada 37.48s; 2. United States 37.55s; 3. Britain 37.83s.
Triple jump: 1. Pedro Pichardo (Por) 17.95m; 2. Hugues Fabrice Zango (Bur) 17.55m; 3. Yaming Zhu (Chn) 17.31m.
800m: 1. Emmanuel Kipkurui Koror (Ken) 1:43.71s; 2. Djamel Sedjati (Alg) 1:44.14s; 3. Marco Arop (Can) 1:44.28s
Javelin: 1. Anderson Peters (Gre) 90.54s, 2. Neeraj Chopra (Ind) 88.13, 3. Jakub Vadlejch (Cze) 88.09.
Women: 4x100m: 1. United States 41.14s; 2. Jamaica 41.18s; 3. Germany 42.03s.
5000m: 1. Gudaf Tsegay (Eth) 14:46.29s; 2. Beatrice Chebet (Ken) 14:46.75s; 3. Dawit Seyaum (Eth) 14:47.36s.

Rain plays spoilsport, series drawn

REUTERS

LEEDS

England's decisive third and final ODI against South Africa at Headingley on Sunday was abandoned because of rain, with South African opener Quinton de Kock unbeaten on 98 in a score of 159 for two in 27.4 overs.

No result means the three-match series was tied at 1-1 after South Africa won the first ODI by 62 runs with England rebounding to win the second by 118 runs.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa: Janneman Malan c Roy b Willey 11, Quinton de Kock (not out) 92, Rassie van der Dussen c Bairstow b Rashid 26, Aiden Markram (not out) 24; Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 27.4 overs): 159.
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-99.
England bowling: Topley 5-0-34-0, Willey 4-1-19-1, Moeen 7.4-0-42-0, Curran 4-0-17-0, Rashid 6-0-36-1, Livingstone 1-0-9-0.
Man-of-the-series: van der Dussen. Three-match series drawn 1-1.
Next match: First T20I, Bristol, July 27.

Hope and Pooran lead strong West Indies' show

Former's superb ton and the skipper's aggressive half-century take the hosts past the 300-mark

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PORT OF SPAIN

Opener Shai Hope showed his class with a magnificent century while skipper Nicholas Pooran went on a six-hitting spree as the West Indies produced a solid batting display to post 311 for six against India in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Hope, who was dismissed cheaply in first ODI, played the role of the anchor to perfection as he added 65 runs off 55 balls for the opening wicket with Kyle Mayers (39), before forging another 62 with Shamarh Brooks (35).

While Mayers and Brooks showed promise, Hope found his perfect ally in skipper Pooran, who showed his big-hitting prowess during his 74 off 77 balls with the help of six maximums and one four. The two shared a 117-run stand off 126 balls.

Hope constructed his 115-run innings well, focusing on building partnership and exploded in the end. His 135-ball knock comprised eight fours and three maximums.

Spin duo of Axar Patel (1/40) and Deepak Hooda (1/42) was the best bowlers on display, while Yuzvendra Chahal (1/69) too scalped one but was expensive.

Mohammed Siraj (0/47) was decent but Avesh Khan had a forgettable ODI debut, while Shardul Thakur (3/54) made amends in the back end with three wickets after conceding 13 in the first over.

Hope looked in full flow as he played some exquisite shots on the off side before reaching the three figures in his 100th ODI game with a six in the 45th over.

Opting to bat, Mayers and Hopes gave West Indies a good start with the former taking the attack to the opposition.

Mayers tore into debutant Avesh, slamming him for successive boundaries in the fourth and sixth overs as the Indian pacer, guilty of bowling too full and short, ended up conceding 36 in his first three overs.

Indian team fined

The Indian cricket team was fined 20% of its match fee for maintaining a slow-over rate against the West Indies in the first ODI here.

Mainstay: Hope anchored the West Indies' innings to perfection. •AFP

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Shai Hope c Axar b Shardul 115 *(135b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Kyle Mayers c & b Hooda 39 *(23b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Shamarh Brooks c Dhawan b Axar 35 *(36b, 5x4)*, Brandon King c Dhawan b Chahal 0 *(5b)*, Nicholas Pooran b Shardul 74 *(77b, 1x4, 6x6)*, Rovman Powell c Shreyas b Shardul 13 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Romario Shepherd (not out) 15 *(11b, 2x4)*, Akeal Hosein (not out) 6 *(4b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-8, nb-1): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 311.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-65 (Mayers, 9.1 overs), 2-127 (Brooks, 21.3), 3-130 (King, 22.5), 4-247 (Pooran, 43.4), 5-280 (Powell, 46.4), 6-300 (Hope, 48.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 10-1-47-0, Avesh 6-0-54-0, Shardul 7-0-54-3, Hooda 9-0-42-1, Axar 9-1-40-1, Chahal 9-0-69-1.
Toss: West Indies.

India 65 for one

- India had made 65 for one in 15 overs after play resumed following a rain break. Gill (43) and Shreyas (8) were at the crease. Dhawan (13) was the batter dismissed

Joy for Vingegaard

Jumbo-Visma rider claims maiden title

Danish delight: Vingegaard celebrates his victory. •AFP

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France on Sunday, ending the reign of two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar who was second. Geraint Thomas, the 2018 champion, was third.

Belgium's Jasper Philipsen won the dash for the line on the cobbled Champs Elysees to take the iconic final stage victory.

Dominant team

Vingegaard and his Jumbo-Visma teammates all crossed the line together in a line and cheering wildly. The Dutch team had six stage wins, the green sprint jersey for Wout van Aert and the polka dot mountains jersey for Vingegaard.

After a relentless struggle over peaks and plains in a crushing heatwave, Vingegaard assured his win on Saturday's time-trial having taken the lead in the Alps and extended it in the Pyrenees.

Defeated champion Pogacar won the best under-25s jersey for the third time and leaves this Tour with his reputation intact after attacking Vingegaard to the bitter end.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.

IN BRIEF

Daruvala finishes overall second

LE CASTELLET

Jehan Daruvala secured his sixth podium of the season, finishing second in the French round of the Formula 2 championship. On Sunday, Jehan started the 'feature race' from 10th on the grid but fought his way up to the seventh before finishing second overall. It was his fifth second-place finish this season. . PTI

Cricket Scotland board resigns

EDINBURGH

The board of Cricket Scotland resigned on Sunday ahead of the publication of an independent report into racism. A review was conducted after Scotland's all-time leading wicket-taker, Majid Haq, told *Sky Sports* Cricket Scotland was "institutionally racist", while former teammate Qasim Sheikh said he had also suffered racist abuse. The report will be released Monday. AP

Verstappen drives to an easy victory

Hamilton finishes second; Leclerc crashes out while leading

FRENCH GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LE CASTELLET

Championship leader Max Verstappen eased to a comfortable win in the French Grand Prix on Sunday after Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashed out while leading the race.

Red Bull's Verstappen cruised home over 10 seconds ahead of Lewis Hamilton whose Mercedes teammate George Russell overtook the Red Bull of Sergio Perez in the closing laps to claim third.

"That's an incredible result for the team. Great job George," said a jubilant Hamilton.

Cashing in: Verstappen made good of Leclerc's misfortune to claim his seventh win of the season. •GETTY IMAGES

Pulling ahead

Verstappen's seventh win of the season takes him 63 points clear of Leclerc and strengthens his chances of claiming a second successive drivers' title.

Leclerc started in pole position and was leading up to the 18th lap when he crashed into the safety tyres, emerging without injury from his car.

His teammate Carlos Sainz, who won the British GP, was in a good position to challenge for the podium before a surprising decision to bring him into the pits late in the race left him too much do and settling for fifth.

The results: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:30:02.112s, 2. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) +10.587, 3. George Russell (Mercedes) +16.495, 4. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) +17.310, 5. Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) +28.872, 6. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) +42.879, 7. Lando Norris (McLaren) +52.026, 8. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) +56.959, 9. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren) +60.372, 10. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) +62.549, 11. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin) +64.494, 12. Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri) +65.448, 13. Alex Albon (Williams) +68.565, 14. Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo) +76.666, 15. Mick Schumacher (Haas) +80.394; **DNF:** Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo), Nicholas Latifi (Williams), Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), Charles Leclerc (Ferrari).

The standings (top five):

Drivers: 1. Verstappen 233 points, 2. Leclerc 170, 3. Perez 163, 4. Sainz 144, 5. Russell 143.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 396, 2. Ferrari 314, 3. Mercedes 270, 4. Alpine 93, 5. McLaren 89.

Bopanna-Middelkoop duo loses in final

Manish triumphs in Colombo ITF

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop lost 6-2, 6-4 to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliovaara in the €1,911,620 ATP tennis doubles final in Hamburg on Sunday. The champion team collected 500 ATP points and €108,770.

In the Challenger doubles final in Indianpolis, Purav Raja and Divij Sharan lost 7-6(3), 3-6, [10-7] to Hans Hack Verdugo and Hunter Reese.

In the $15,000 ITF men's event in Colombo, Manish Sureshkumar beat the top seed Quentin Folliot of France 6-4, 6-0 in the final.

It was the third singles title in the professional circuit for the 22-year-old Manish.

Other results: $53,120 Challenger, Indianapolis: Doubles: Final: Hans Hach Verdugo (Can) & Hunter Reese (US) bt Purav Raja & Divij Sharan 7-6 (3), 3-6, [10-7].

Manish Sureshkumar. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Final: Priska Madleyn Nugroho (Ina) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Caloundra, Australia: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Dayne Kelly & Calum Puttergill (Aus) bt Ryotaro Matsumura (Jpn) & Nishant Dabas 7-6(3), 7-6(5).

Karuna Jain retires

Karuna Jain. •FILE PHOTO: ASHWIN ACHAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Former India women's team wicketkeeper Karuna Jain on Sunday announced her retirement from all forms of the game.

"With a lot of happy and satisfied feelings, I'm able to make this announcement of my retirement from all forms of cricket and looking forward to contribute back to the game," the 36-year-old Karuna said in a statement.

The Bengaluru-born Karuna played five Tests, 44 ODIs and nine T20 games.

Karuna also played 44 ODIs and scored 987 runs with a solitary hundred and nine fifties and 103 as her highest score. She made her ODI debut in 2004 against the West Indies and played her last 50-over game in 2014 against England.

Karuna effected 17 dismissals in her Test career, which remains the second best for Indian keepers after Anju Jain's 23.

In ODIs and T20s, she effected 58 and 12 dismissals.

Karuna, who last represented the country in 2014, thanked all her coaches and team-mates.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of my cricketing journey from the very beginning, to all my coaches, support staff and my team mates whose been a part throughout my career, she said.

Fire Power should score in feature

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old gelding Fire Power, who is in good shape as evidenced by his morning trials, should not find it difficult to win the Raja Mahboob Khan Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (July 25) races.

1 ROYSTON ROCK PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Ilango (1) Kiran Naidu 56, 2. RX Hundred (4) Md. Ismail 56, 3. Superstellar (5) Gaurav Singh 56, 4. Bien Pensant (9) Surya Prakash 54.5, 5. Code Blue (10) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. God Is Kind (2) B. Nikhil 54.5, 7. N R I Fantasy (8) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 8. The Thriller (6) P. Gaddam 54.5, 9. The Thunder (7) Kuldeep Singh 54.5 and 10. Tiger Mountain (3) A.A. Vikrant 54.5.

1. CODE BLUE, 2. RX HUNDRED, 3. GOD IS KIND

2 KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.00: 1. Sporting Smile (8) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Isra (9) Aneel 59, 3. Hard To Toss (1) Suraj Narredu 58, 4. Malaala (6) D.S. Deora 57, 5. Paladino (10) Afroz Khan 56.5, 6. Ok Boss (7) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 7. Faruma (3) Kuldeep Singh 53, 8. Gurbaaz (4) B. Nikhil 51.5, 9. Kachnar (2) Rafique Sk. 51, 10. Plethora (11) Nakhat 51 and 11. Golden Forza (5) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. HARD TO TOSS, 2. SPORTING SMILE, 3. MALAALA

3 FALAKNUMA CUP (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Grand Duke (9) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Essential (10) Mukesh Kumar 59, 3. Ice Berry (8) Gaurav Singh 59, 4. Princess Daka (1) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Dillon (11) Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 6. Advance Guard (3) Nakhat Singh 56, 7. Winning Streak (2) Kuldeep Singh 56, 8. Call Of The Blue (4) B. Nikhil 55.5, 9. Siri (6) Md. Ismail 54.5, 10. N R I Majestic (7) G. Naresh 54 and 11. Baisa (5) Ishwar Singh 52.

1. PRINCESS DAKA, 2. ICE BERRY, 3. WINNING STREAK

4 KOTHAGUDEM PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.10: 1. Gregor Clegane (4) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. Hot Seat (10) Md. Ismail 58, 3. Dharasana (8) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 4. Salisbury (5) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 5. Costello (1) A.A. Vikrant 57, 6. Melting Ice (9) R.S. Jodha 56, 7. Dream Station (7) Abhay Singh 54, 8. Star Cruise (3) G. Naresh 52, 9. My Master (12) Nakhat Singh 51.5, 10. Doe A Deer (6) Gaurav Singh 51, 11. Queen Blossom (11) Ishwar Singh 50.5 and 12. Lifetime (2) Surya Prakash 50.

1. GREGOR CLEGANE, 2. COSTELLO, 3. SALISBURY

5 FIRECREST PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Kingston (13) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Vision (1) Santosh Raj 60, 3. Amyra (16) Kiran Naidu 59.5, 4. Strategist (9) Nakhat Singh 57.5, 5. By The Bay (6) Suraj Narredu 56.5, 6. Angel Tesoro (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 7. Star Babe (14) M. Madhu Babu 55, 8. Full Volume (2) D.S. Deora 53.5, 9. Angelita (10) Ajeeth Kumar 53, 10. Lifes Song (5) Akshay Kumar 53, 11. Sandown Park (11) Afroz Khan 53, 12. Star Racer (3) Surya Prakash 53, 13. Blissful (8) Kuldeep Singh 52.5, 14. City Of Bliss (12) B.R. Kumar 52, 15. Different (15) Ishwar Singh 52 and 16. Rising Queen (7) Md. Ismail 52.

1. BY THE BAY, 2. KINGSTON, 3. LIFES SONG

6 RAJA MAJBOOB KARAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.20: 1. Fire Power (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. City Of Blessing (7) Mukesh Kumar 59, 3. Icicle (4) Suraj Narredu 55.5, 4. Just Incredible (5) Kuldeep Singh 55, 5. Lamha (2) Abhay Singh 55, 6. Beauty Flame (8) B. Nikhil 53, 7. Miss Marvellous (3) Afroz Khan 52.5 and 8. Bold Bidding (1) Santosh Raj 51.5.

1. FIRE POWER, 2. ICICLE, 3. CITY OF BLESSING

7 ANAB E SHAHI PLATE (1,400m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 4.55: 1. Ashwa Pushkin (4) Santosh Raj 61.5, 2. Dream Jewel (1) G. Naresh 61.5, 3. Exponent (7) Nakhat Singh 61.5, 4. Inside Story (11) R.S. Jodha 61.5, 5. Reining Queen (9) Deepak Singh 61.5, 6. N R I Ruby (6) P. Sai Kumar 61, 7. Sea Of Class (8) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 8. Healthandhappiness (5) B. Nikhil 58, 9. Astronaut (10) P. Gaddam 57.5, 10. Starwalt (3) Akshay Kumar 57.5 and 11. Epsom (2) Afroz Khan 50.

1. EXPONENT, 2. STARWALT, 3. ASTRONAUT

Day's Best: **FIRE POWER**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Mini Jackpot: (i): 1, 2, 3 & 4; (ii) 4, 5, 6, & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4; (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

Theon comfortably wins Bangalore St. Leger

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Theon (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Bangalore St. Leger, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (July 24). The winner is owned by Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. Theon, who took a smart jump, led all the way, responded tremendously to the reminders in the final stages and won comfortably.

1. CAMINO PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over: **BELDONA** (Akshay K) 1, Akasi (Vivek) 2, Activated (Trevor) 3 and Bramastram (Nazerul) 4. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m, 27.35s. ₹19 (w), 11, 64 and 16 (p), SHP: 183, THP: 46, FP: 474, Q: 267, Trinella: 814 and 172, Exacta: 2,833 and 1,943. Favourite: Beldona.

Owner: Mr. Nanda Kumar N. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

2. BHISHMA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **ANSALDO** (Srinath) 1, Super Ruffian (Hindu S) 2, Striking Memory (S. Saqlain) 3 and Toronero (L.A. Rozario) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 26.53s. ₹31 (w), 10, 23 and 24 (p), SHP: 60, THP: 42, FP: 341, Q: 191, Trinella: 1,780 and 910, Exacta: 7,101 and 3,043. Favourite: Electric Blue.

Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

3. D.M. KUMARASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over: **FOREVER TOGETHER** (Angad) 1, Caracas (Akshay K) 2, Multistarrer (Trevor) 3 and Extraordinary (Arvind K) 4. 1/2, 3/4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 38.35s. ₹29 (w), 17 and 18 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 45, FP: 93, Q: 41, Trinella: 94 and 52, Exacta: 230 and 317. Favourite: Forever Together.

Owners: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poonawalla. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

4. BARALOY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **THE ADVISER** (Arvind K) 1, Habanero (G. Vivek) 2, Domina (S. John) 3 and Don's Den (Jagadeesh) 4. 1/2, 3-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 15.36s. ₹16 (w), 11, 27 and 14 (p), SHP: 84, THP: 38, FP: 171, Q: 126, Trinella: 284 and 83, Exacta: 661 and 413. Favourite: The Adviser.

Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

5. BANGALORE ST. LEGER (2,800M), 4-Y-O & OVER, (TERMS): THEON (P.S. CHOUHAN) 1, My Opinion (Akshay K) 2, Pissarro (Trevor) 3 and Speedster (Suraj) 4. Not run: Flash Bond. 2, 4 and 7. 3m, 00.75s. ₹13 (w), 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 16, THP: 25, FP: 21, Q: 20, Trinella: 61 and 35. Favourite: Theon.

Owners: Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. Trainer: P. Shroff.

6. BHISHMA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **ACASTER** (Srinath) 1, Dragon's Gold (Suraj) 2, Impeccable (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Stunning Beauty (Arvind K) 4. Not run: Lagopus. Shd, 2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 27.49s. ₹36 (w), 12, 12 and 62 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 121, FP: 93, Q: 35, Trinella: 1,824 and 1,259, Exacta: 6,681 and 1,750. Favourite: Dragon's Gold.

Owner: Mr. Roopesh S. Trainer: Warren Singh.

7. BARALOY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **TENALI** (Akshay K) 1, Lady Supremos (Rayan) 2, Flying Quest (Darshan) 3 and Divine Blessings (S. John) 4. 2-1/4 and 1 and 1/2. 1m, 13.64s. ₹23 (w), 10, 33 and 20 (p), SHP: 136, THP: 41, FP: 593, Q: 462, Trinella: 2,298 and 1,108, Exacta: 14,442 and 2,751. Favourite: Tenali.

Owner: Mr. Meka Yugandhar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

8. CAMINO PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over: **ANOTHER RAINBOW** (G. Vivek) 1, Thunderstruck (Akshay K) 2, Daring Sweetheart (S. Mubarak) 3 and Fierce Fighter (Arshad) 4. 1-1/2, 1-3/4 and 1. 1m, 27.78s. ₹37 (w), 14, 14 and 16 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 58, FP: 78, Q: 35, Trinella: 280 and 165, Exacta: 2,146 and 1,104. Favourite: Thunderstruck.

Owner: Mr. Syed Muheeb. Trainer: M. Rajendra Singh.

Jackpot: ₹1,999 (50 tkts.).

Runner-up: 163 (263 tkts.).

Treble (i): 68 (138 tkts.); (ii): 727 (15 tkts.).

Recognising excellence: BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran, left, with Theon's co-owners Liane Milan Luthria, Milan Luthria, jockey Chouhan, and trainer Shroff. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Chandimal propels Sri Lanka, but Pakistan hits back

PAKISTAN IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Dinesh Chandimal struck his fourth successive half-century to drive Sri Lanka's total before Pakistan hit back with late wickets on Sunday's opening day of the second Test here.

Chandimal, who hit 80, put on key partnerships including a 75-run fourth-wicket stand with Angelo Mathews, who fell short of fifty in his landmark 100th Test.

Sri Lanka reached 315 for six when bad light stopped play for the day, with the hosts electing to bat in their bid to bounce back from an opening loss.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Niroshan Dickwella, on 42, and debutant Dunith Wellalage, on six, were batting after pace bowler Naseem Shah struck with the second new ball. Naseem bowled Dhananjaya de Silva for 32 and nearly got Dickwella on 24, but skipper Babar Azam dropped his second catch of the day, this time at second slip. Left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz stood out for Pakistan with the key wickets of Oshada Fernando and Chandimal.

Steady hand: Chandimal struck his fourth successive half-century and was involved in key partnerships. •AFP

Chandimal, who made 206 not out, 76 and 94 not out in his previous two Tests, handled the opposition spinners with aplomb until his departure.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Oshada Fernando c Rizwan b Nawaz 50, Dimuth Karunaratne c Naseem b Yasir 40, Kusal Mendis run out 3, Angelo Mathews c Rizwan b Nauman 42, Dinesh Chandimal c Fawad b Nawaz 80, Dhananjaya de Silva b Naseem 33, Niroshan Dickwella (batting) 42, Dunith Wellalage (batting) 6; Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-10): 19; Total (for six wkts. in 86 overs): 315.

Fall of wickets: 1-92, 2-96, 3-120, 4-195, 5-258, 6-290.

Pakistan bowling: Hasan 12-3-45-0, Naseem 12-3-34-1, Nauman 21-2-64-1, Agha 6-0-25-0, Nawaz 17-2-71-2, Yasir 18-1-67-1.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Chandran Sairam bows out

Boys' second seed Chandran Sairam Pokkula crashed out in the final round of qualifying, losing to M. Paul Charan Tej 1-6, 4-6 in the Karnataka AITA Super Series U-16 tennis being played at the KSLTA Stadium, here on Sunday. The girls' second seed Disha Santosh Khandoji however fared better, thrashing Meghana Pokkuluri 6-0, 6-1 to make it to the main draw.

Namgyal Bhutia to lead

Namgyal Bhutia will lead a 20-man Bengaluru FC side at the PL Next Gen Cup, set to take place in the United Kingdom over the next week. BFC qualified as winners of the RF Development League, while Kerala Blasters, who finished second in the same tournament, is the other Indian Super League team in the fray.

The squad:

Goalkeepers: Dipesh Chauhan, Sharon Padattil;

Defenders: Felixson Fernandes, Clarence Fernandes, Robin Yadav, Namgyal Bhutia, Rajanbir Singh, Tomthinganba Meetei;

Midfielders: Kamalesh Palanisamy, Bekey Oram, Shighil Nambrath, Damaitphang Lyngdoh, Lalhmingchuanga Fanai, Lalremtuanga Fanai;

Forwards: Lalpekhlua, Monirul Molla, Ankith Padmanabhan, Thoi Singh, Sivasakthi Narayanan, Akashdeep Singh; **Head coach**: Naushad Moosa; **Assistant coach**: Jeevan Jayaraj.

Prithvi Raj elected president

Prithvi Raj Urs was elected unopposed as President of the Karnataka Golf Association at its 47th annual general body meeting held here recently. Suresh Jois Chandrashekar was elected the Captain, while Adith Kumar Bhandari is the new Secretary for the year 2022-23.

The Managing Committee: Prithvi Raj Urs (president); Suresh Jois Chandrashekar (captain); Adith Kumar Bhandari (secretary), Austin Roach (treasurer); Hari R.Achanta, Roopa Pratap, Ranjan Biswas, Peter Prem, Vijay M..R. and Sanjay G. Mathias (all committee members).

Hussamuddin eyes gold at Birmingham

Pugilist doubly motivated by the birth of a daughter on Friday

C'WEALTH GAMES

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Experienced boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin is excited on becoming a father and wants to double his joy by bringing home his second consecutive Commonwealth Games medal.

Hussamuddin, who has been training with the rest of the Games-bound Indian boxing squad in Belfast, feels the special moment in his life will inspire him to shine in Birmingham.

"The birth of my daughter (on Friday) has doubly motivated me. It has given me a lot of happiness and confidence. I am sure something good is going to happen. My family understands my needs and has supported me well," Hussamuddin, coming from a family of boxers in Nizamabad, told *The Hindu*.

Hussamuddin... ready to throw a punch. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hussamuddin worked hard to overcome a shock defeat to rookie Rohit Mor in the National championships final in September last to book his place in the squad.

"Winning and losing are part of the game. I had to make a comeback. I worked hard towards achieving my aim of participating in the Commonwealth Games."

The 28-year-old faced another hurdle when he injured his left thumb after the Commonwealth Games trials. "The physio and the doctor took good care of me. Earlier, I was not able to deliver the punches, but now it's much better.

"The thought of hurting the injured finger comes, it's quite natural. But I stay positive. I meditate for 15 minutes every morning before training. I began doing it before the Commonwealth Games trials. It's a good exercise to keep the mind positive."

Hussamuddin, who clinched a 56kg bronze in Gold Coast, is eager to become successful in the new 57kg weight class in Birmingham. Apart from guarding against injuries, the other challenge for Hussamuddin will be to see off up-and-coming talents. "In my weight, the old timers have become professional. Mostly there are new faces. I am the most experienced boxer. My experience will help me inside the ring. I want to change the colour of my medal and win the gold," said Hussamuddin.